



**MITTALS BUY 75% RR
STAKE FOR \$1.65BN**

Industrialist Lakshmi N Mittal and his son Aditya Mittal, along with Adar Poonawalla, have acquired a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals with a bid of USD 1.65 billion (about Rs 15,600 crore) after the Kal Somani-Rob Walton-Sheila Ford Hamp consortium pulled out of the race. The transaction consideration represents the enterprise value of Rajasthan Royals' men's franchise, Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals.



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NEET means PARISHRAMA

710+
EXPECTED NEET SCORE
Likhith N R

710+
EXPECTED NEET SCORE
Shreya Gajakosh

705+
EXPECTED NEET SCORE
Punyavardhan



Pradeep Eshwar
Teacher by Passion

Expected NEET 2026 scores based on Parishrama provisional key answers

700+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Harshitha D M	700+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Rakshith Gowda	690+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Akash S M	690+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Shashank N	690+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Pranathi H C	680+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Pavan Gowda G
670+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Akash M	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Bindu J Shetty	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Vishwas K Kunchanur	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Prachi	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Manojna S	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Monish Kenkari Manju
650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Poorvi Girish Mantur	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Arjun Jagadeesh	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Manikanta B Gowda	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Manu Kiran T	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Preetham S	650+ EXPECTED NEET SCORE Khushi Durannavar

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GBA's set of waste queries stumps property tax payers

They are now required to answer 6 questions under a new section

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

PROPERTY owners who are clear their tax dues ahead of the revised deadline to secure 5% rebate have flagged confusion over a new set of mandatory questions in the tax payment process. Taxpayers say they are now required to answer six questions under a newly introduced section, reportedly meant to identify bulk waste generators.

One question – whether an apartment generates 100kg of waste per day – has left many residents puzzled, with several saying they lack the means to assess such data. Many described the experience as a “rude shock”, given the time limit to meet the deadline. Taxpayers and opposition leaders are urging Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to simplify the process to ensure smoother compliance. CIVIC Bangalore executive trustee Kathyayini Chamaraj said such technical queries should not be imposed on individual taxpayers who do not have access to such information.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka slammed the move, calling it impractical and disconnected from reality. “The new property tax format in Bengaluru has created unnecessary confusion and anxiety. Asking citizens to declare daily waste generation without any scientific basis or measurement mechanism is unreasonable,” he said.

Residents are being forced to enter rough estimates just to complete the process, which could end up inflating their tax liability. “This is unfair and unacceptable. The government must immediately withdraw these flawed provisions and simplify the system. If waste data is needed, it is the responsibility of authorities to assess

OTS: BWSSB eyes ₹471.56 cr from 2.18 lakh beneficiaries

BENGALURU: With its One-Time Settlement (OTS) rolled out on March 21 receiving a positive response from the city residents, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has reviewed its legacy records and identified 2,81,019 eligible beneficiaries out of the total 3,73,883 registered cases. Notices to be sent to 2,12,359 beneficiaries out of the 2,81,019 selected cases, have been printed and dispatched to the respective subdivisions till Sunday. It is expected that the rest of the notices would be printed and dispatched by May 10. The BWSSB aims to collect Rs 471.56 crore in principal dues while offering an interest waiver of Rs 252.29 crore to the beneficiaries. The scheme has already demonstrated strong early traction, according to information shared by the BWSSB. From the first batch of 56,765 beneficiaries who have been sent the notices, BWSSB has already received Rs 12.15 crore. “The encouraging initial response to the OTS scheme shows that when a transparent and respectful system is put in place, consumers respond positively. We urge all eligible citizens to make use of this opportunity,” said BWSSB chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar. **ENS**



it, not shift the burden on to citizens,” Ashoka said.

Opposition Leader in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy termed as “nonsensical” the linking of solid waste management (SWM) with property tax. Karnataka Rashtra Samithi honorary president Ravi Krishna Reddy warned that the added requirements could deter timely payments. “If taxpayers don’t have these details, they may simply avoid paying. Then who is to blame?” he asked.

Joseph S Xavier, a taxpayer, noted that residents already dealing with the rollout of e-khata are now being asked to declare waste generation.

“What is the rationale behind this system?” he questioned.

A former senior bureaucrat said linking SWM charges with property tax has caused hardship. “GBA has turned itself into a collection channel for SWM, which is a separate entity,” he said. He added that if such a linkage was intended, authorities should have designed a transparent, citizen-friendly framework integrating SWM charges into the property tax system.

“There should have been public consultation, including with Resident Welfare Associations, to understand practical challenges,” he said. He also pointed to a pattern, citing the rollout of e-khata, where inadequate consultation and design gaps led to inconvenience for citizens.

He noted that BBMP’s property tax system was once considered among the most efficient and citizen-friendly in the country, but increasing layers of complexity have been added.

Aspirants find paper lengthy, a bit tough

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AROUND 1.45 lakh students wrote NEET UG exams conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday across Karnataka. It was held in a single session from 2pm to 5pm.

NEET UG exams are conducted for students who aspire to pursue medical stream, including MBBS, BDS and allied medical courses. These exams are conducted across the country and the question paper carries 180 questions with a total of 720 marks. Wrong answers carry a penalty of reduction in marks allotted for right answers.

This year, students as well as faculty members of coaching institutes highlighted that the questions were lengthy statement-based and match-the-following types. Physics had a calculation heavy section, while chemistry, biology, botany and zoology sections had questions from NCERT that could be solved easily but were time-consuming as they were lengthy.

Jeevith Gowda, who wrote the NEET UG exam, said, “The paper was very lengthy, with



Candidates and their parents outside the examination centre in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADKAL

multiple statements in each question paper. Reading these statements and arriving at a conclusion of which one is the right answer, took some time. Otherwise the paper was neither easy nor difficult. I am expecting a good score. Though I wrote CET also recently, I am aiming for a medical seat.”

Likith NR from Parishrama NEET Academy said, “I am aiming to score more than 700. Since I have attended a lot of mock tests, I was able to attempt all the questions in Biology, but couldn’t attempt one

question each in Chemistry and Physics. The paper was lengthy and moderately difficult. It was lengthy because each question has multiple statements and after reading each statement, we must conclude with the right answer.”

Hanumanth Rao, a Chemistry faculty at a private institute, said, “Since last year, NTA has been framing questions that usually consume a lot of time to read, analyse and arrive at an answer. Only a student who has read up well and has a deep knowledge of the subject

Vendors’ union seeks enhanced relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A CITY-based street vendors’ association has urged chief minister Siddaramaiah to increase the compensation to the victims’ kin in Bowring Hospital boundary wall collapse tragedy on April 29. In its letter to the CM, Karnataka Pragatipara Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha has expressed concern over the impact of the incident on already vulnerable street vendors.

The union’s demands include raising the compensation from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh considering the magnitude of the loss and the economic vulnerability of the victims’ families and Rs



A file picture of Bowring Hospital's boundary wall that collapsed

10 lakh compensation for each injured vendor, as many of them are likely to take several months to recover and earn their livelihoods. It also demanded a compensation for loss of goods, as several vendors have suffered loss of working capital.

In light of directions that vendors must not operate near unsafe structures, the union has urged the government to hold immediate consultations with them to identify and allocate safe and viable alternative vending spaces. Denial of vending spaces directly threatens the livelihood of these workers, it said.

Demanding a judicial enquiry to fix accountability for the wall collapse, the union urged the government to hold discussions on how to mitigate impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods on informal workers such as street vendors, gig and platform workers and pourakarmikas.

can solve the questions and manage time as well. After analysing the Chemistry paper, I understood it was lengthy with the same long form statement format questions.”

Chinna, a faculty at Parishrama, said, “We know it was lengthy and moderately tough but are aiming to score more than 700. At least five students from our institute will be able to achieve good results.”

Two students arrive late
Two students whose exam centre was RC College of Commerce and Management in Bengaluru were sent back by college authorities for failing to arrive on time.

Despite NTA specifying that candidates must be at the exam centre two hours prior to the exam start time, one girl arrived at 1.50pm, while frisking and other procedures were completed at 1.30pm. Asked why she was late, she blamed Bengaluru’s traffic.

Another student who arrived early at the exam centre, went to Majestic to get his passport size photos and arrived late. The student wasn’t allowed to write the exam.

Mandaviya inaugurates ESIC hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday inaugurated a 100-bed ESIC hospital in Doddaballapur and virtually laid the foundation stone for another similar facility in Ballari.

The Doddaballapur hospital, built at a cost of Rs 101 crore, is expected to cater to the growing industrial workforce in the region, who previously had to travel to Bengaluru for advanced treatment. The Ballari hospital, being built at a cost of Rs 150 crore, will serve nearly 1.5 lakh textile workers in the district.

Speaking at the event, Mandaviya said workers’ welfare and social security are the cornerstones of the Union government’s labour policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said ESI coverage has expanded significantly, with the number of beneficiaries rising from seven crore to 19.94 crore across the country.

The minister said the Centre has introduced four new labour codes to strengthen social security for private sector workers, ensure mandatory appointment letters and guarantee equal pay for equal work without gender discrimination. He added that even work-from-home employees have been brought under the labour law framework.

Mandaviya also announced that annual free health check-ups have been made mandatory for workers above 40 years for early detection of diseases.

Mallappa Shetty Lake’s buffer now a dump yard

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE National Highway 75 (NH) cutting through the Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake has become a convenient option to dump construction debris on the waterbody’s buffer zone. About 800 meters of the area is filled with waste and debris, despite a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order to keep the lake and buffer zone protected.

The morning walkers, motorists and residents in the surrounding areas have held the officials of minor irrigation department, the custodian of the lake, the Bengaluru solid waste management department and other officials concerned responsible for the poor condition of the 500 acres lake.

“The villagers had objected to high-rise fencing and demanded a pathway. This has led to night-time dumping. We had written letters, and many volunteers stood guard in the early morning hours to catch the miscreants, but they have started dumping in the midnight hours,” said Balaji Ragotham, a volunteer involved in the plantation drive at lakes.

Apart from debris, a discarded refrigerator, a broken cot, bed, tons of old clothes, and coconut shells have been dumped all the way from Medahalli service road up to the Avalahalli side of the Lake Buffer Zone. “There is a garbage burning issue in the lake buffer, but no one addresses it,” said Ragotham. Minor Irrigation Assistant



Construction debris dumped on Yele Mallappa Shetty lake's buffer zone

Engineer Vinay Kumar also agreed on the fact that there is nighttime dumping in the buffer zone and would solve the issue at the earliest.

“About 80 percent of fencing work at the buffer on the right

side of Highway is complete. Once the National Census-27, Listing of Houses and Households ends, the remaining work will be taken up. We will also build a height barrier to prevent vehicles from coming and dumping construction debris,” said Kumar.

The official also stated that they too had conducted patrolling during day time to prevent debris and garbage dump on the buffer zone, but the miscreants usually come late at night, dump debris, garbage and scoot.

“Once we are done with the installation of the fence and height barrier, CCTVs will be installed, and once the vehicle dumping is caught, FIR will be registered, and vehicles will be seized,” the official added.

Ashoka's son enters Guinness Book



BENGALURU: Sharath R Ashoka, a Bengaluru-based adventure sports professional and son of Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka, created history on Saturday by unfurling a 60x40 metre Tricolour underwater. He was part of a team of over 200 scuba divers who achieved the feat at Swaraj Dweep in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Sharath, whose feat earned him an entry in the Guinness World Records, is a certified dive master and scuba instructor with international credentials. He is also a trained paraglider and paramotor pilot, and has demonstrated proficiency in motocross and mountaineering. The feat was achieved with the support of the Andaman and Nicobar administration and Indian defence forces. Lieutenant Governor Admiral DK Joshi presented the team with the official Guinness World Records certificate. “Adventure has always been my passion, and unfurling our national flag under the ocean was a moment of immense pride in my life,” said Sharath. **ENS**

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

04th May: Mars Squares Jupiter; Olympians at Odds The father and son dynamic between Mars and Jupiter is a classic clash of styles. Mars is impulsive and eager to show off. The youthful rely on their quick, instinctual might. Jupiter speaks as softly as Marlon Brando's “Godfather” character, with every implication widely understood. Of course, the powerful can afford to be more strategic. Their legend does the heavy lifting.

ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 20)



Hope is a steady, living thing in you. Not naive, not desperate. Just open. You're hoping now for the ease that comes with good relationships. Where there's mutual respect, things either work immediately or get worked out until they click.

TAURUS

(Apr 20 - May 20)



The work won't feel like effort to you. Which is a trend that will continue. Your joy is, in and of itself, an act of gratitude. You might do this even were you not paid, but don't let that keep you from asking for better compensation.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 21)



You'd love to know what they say about you when you're not there. But since you can't, you do the next best thing -- drop in interesting details that would make a good sound bite. You're a pro at optics today.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



There will be many different people and personalities to contend with and you adapt to each without losing your throughline -- patience, consistency and fairness. Once people get to know your style, they calm down and settle into your leadership.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug 22)



Loose clothes and tight relationships -- that's comfort. Today, there's nothing pinching, squeezing or pressuring you. You don't have to contort yourself into any shape, or perform in any way because you're accepted as-is. You get to relax.

VIRGO

(Aug 23 - Sept 22)



You do like to stay on task. But you still respect those who dilly-dally, lollygag and, yes, even loiter. They'll have information to share -- something gleaned in easygoing moments. Something you would have otherwise missed.

LIBRA

(Sept 23 - Oct 23)



You already know what love is. Not in theory. Not in your body, in your actions. You know where it flows, who benefits, what agreements you're entering into, and what they cost over time. When you understand the system, you can make more intentional choices.

SCORPIO

(Oct 24 - Nov 21)



Recent financial interactions have sharpened your awareness of around money. You know where it flows, who benefits, what agreements you're entering into, and what they cost over time. When you understand the system, you can make more intentional choices.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)



The stoic way is fine and good, though it lacks excitement. You can't blame people for wanting to be around a more electric charge. Interests and attractions will buzz around emotion. Letting emotions show will be an easy way to connect.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 - Jan 19)



It's possible to feel lonely in a room full of people, because loneliness is about connection, not about the number of bodies. Today, you'll have access to a state of togetherness and connection even when there's nobody else around. How gloriously freeing.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)



The person you so often disagree with will figure into today's mix. It doesn't have to be a drama. Anticipate friction and either add elements that will reduce it or subtract the elements that tend to cause the rub.

PISCES

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)



There's something exciting that's been in the back of your mind and wants to come to the front of your schedule instead. You can totally pull this off, and the dreaming and scheming are definitely part of the fun.

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TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- It's most desirable to enclose a wild animal (5)
- Woman in charge at military intelligence gets hassle (8)
- A last correction for a book of maps (5)
- Flat round insect that's a nuisance on the lawn (8)
- It's used to measure a diamond in a ring perhaps (5)
- Article you and I fear (3)
- Used by people of high standing? (6)
- Watched United compete for leadership (6)
- Quarters that are a bishop's responsibility (3)
- Keep shop (5)
- Brought down average in actual fact (8)
- Infinitely upset by Donne (2,3)
- Instrument with the stamp of fine stuff (8)
- Indeed a way used to get a rise (5)

DOWN

- Whole eternity blown to bits (8)
- Painless manipulation for dogs (8)
- Tree bat? (6)
- A musical quality in harmony (2,3)
- It could be a four-legged race (5)
- Finally refusing employment (5)
- One who could be taken for a ride (3)
- Thieves disregard this errant female (3)
- Here most trouble may be past for convalescents (4,4)
- They show one's position in carriages (8)
- The Observer's front cover (6)
- Goodbye to a Spaniard (5)
- Love game perhaps - last of the series (5)
- Chase around a favourite resort (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Left-winger, 6 Idiot, 10 Scum, 11 Apathetic, 12 Trespass, 13 Rumba, 15 Ophelia, 17 Scuffed, 19 New Year, 21 College, 22 Night, 24 Straight, 27 Still wine, 28 Elate, 29 Need, 30 Instalment.

Down: 1 Lush, 2 Floor show, 3 Works, 4 Niagara, 5 Elapses, 7 Datum, 8 Lock and key, 9 Charcoal, 14 Morning sun, 16 Lie still, 18 Fresh face, 20 Russian, 21 Current, 23 Guide, 25 Ideal, 26 Wept.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

FLWAU
ODTBU
SOLHPI
MELIYT

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Facebook

Such a unique cat
Each species has a different vocalization.

THE ONLY TYPE OF BIRD THAT SAYS "WHO" IS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: CRAZE ORBIT CAMERA GAZEBO
Answer: When aliens set up an open-air market on Earth, it turned out to be a BIZARRE BAZAAR



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Phogat flags bias ahead of WFI event

HARPREET BAJWA & FIROZ MIRZA @ Chandigarh / Chennai

DAYS before her comeback event, Olympian Vinesh Phogat on Sunday said she is among the six victims who had lodged sexual harassment complaints against former Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP leader Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Phogat, a Congress MLA from Haryana's Julana, is participating in the National Open Ranking Tournament on May 10-12 in Gonda, UP, a stronghold of Bhushan.

Phogat said on Sunday she is worried about her safety. "This tournament is being organised at Gonda, where Brij Bhushan's home is. Which referee will officiate which match, who has to win, who will lose... all that can be controlled by his people."

WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh said, "If she fears for her safety, I would go and pick her up from her place. I will also drop her back."

All eyes on which way the power pendulum swings

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AS votes are counted in the high-stakes Assembly elections across West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry on Monday, all eyes are on the outcome, which will shape new political alignments and power equations.

With the exit polls setting the tone, regional heavyweights such as the DMK in Tamil Nadu, TMC in West Bengal, and CPI(M) in Kerala are seeking to retain power, even as BJP attempts to expand its footprint beyond traditional bastions.

In Bengal, the results will be crucial in determining whether the three-term CM Mamata Banerjee can withstand a fierce challenge from the saffron party and secure another term. While several exit polls showed a tight race between BJP and TMC, a historic breakthrough for BJP would be to breach TMC stronghold for the first time. If TMC secures a strong mandate in Bengal, Mamata will solidify her position in national politics.

Tamil Nadu presents another intriguing contest. The DMK, under CM MK Stalin, is hoping for a second term, while AIADMK, now aligned with BJP, is attempting a comeback. All eyes are on the new entrant TVK, led by actor-turned-politician Vijay, which has added a new dimension to the race.

What's at stake		
State	Total Seats	Halfway Mark
West Bengal*	294	148
Tamil Nadu	234	118
Kerala	140	71
Assam	126	64
Puducherry	30	16
TOTAL	824	-
* Result of Faltu constituency to be declared after repolling		

In Kerala, the results will be a make-or-break for the Congress, which is hoping to return to power buoyed by its performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and recent local body elections.

The ruling LDF, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is seeking a third consecutive term, while the BJP-led NDA is attempting to gain a foothold in the state with a bipolar polity. A defeat for the LDF would also mark the first time since the 1960s that Left parties are not in power in any state.

In Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is seeking a second consecutive term, with the Congress aiming to mount a credible challenge.

Puducherry, known for its history of electoral alternation, is also witnessing a closely fought battle, with exit polls indicating a tight contest. **P10**

On counting eve, AIADMK, DMK, file complaints with CEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WITH exit polls predicting a razor-thin margin of victory in the 2026 Assembly elections, political tensions have peaked in Tamil Nadu. On the eve of the results, the ruling DMK and the opposition AIADMK have approached Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Archana Patnaik with complaints, each accusing the other of trying to compromise the integrity of Monday's counting process.

DMK organisation secretary RS Bharathi, in his letter to the CEO, alleged that the DMK has credible information that BJP and other parties acting at its behest may attempt to create ruckus at the count-



ing centres and nearby sensitive locations, including party offices, to disrupt counting.

Stating that such orchestrated, large-scale law and order issues may affect a free and fair electoral process, Bharathi urged the CEO to take steps to ensure peace, public order and the integrity of the counting process.

Bharathi said the ECI should operate above suspicion, given the many complaints about the

commission's activities in other states. "However, the DMK is ready to face any eventualities," he added.

AIADMK Advocates Wing secretary IS Inbadurai complained to the Chief Election Commissioner, CEO, and Special Observer, alleging misuse of press passes to gain unauthorised access to counting centres. He claimed certain individuals linked to the DMK IT Wing sought press accreditation, with some officials allegedly issuing passes to non-media persons. Cautioning this could compromise transparency and affect level playing field, he sought immediate verification of passes, strict scrutiny, cancellation of irregular passes, and fixing of accountability on the officials.

Iran sends new proposal to break deadlock

AGENCIES @ Tehran

EYEING to break the deadlock over peace talks with the US, Iran has conveyed a "multi-layered proposal" to Washington, a senior official in the know said on Sunday.

While US President Donald Trump has not rejected Iran's latest 14-point proposal outright, experts believe Washington is unlikely to accept any framework that does not include firm guarantees preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

The Iran war, launched by the US and Israel on February 28, has been on hold since April 8, with one round of peace talks having taken place unfruitfully in Islamabad since then.

The official told PTI that the fresh Iran proposal is a phased de-escalation framework. "The first component of the plan focuses on urgent de-escalation measures. Iran has indicated willingness to ease tensions in and around the strategic Strait of Hormuz, provided Washington reciprocates by scaling back its military posture and easing economic pressure," he said.

Secondly, Iran is seeking to decouple the restoration of maritime trade and oil flows from nuclear negotiations. Thirdly, Iran says it is open to discussing limits on uranium enrichment and enhanced monitoring mechanisms, but only within a broader agreement that guarantees sanctions relief. **P11**

It's victory or mere survival for LDF and UDF in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T' Puram

IT'S only a matter of hours to know who will rule Kerala next. Ending a month-long wait, results of the crucial Assembly elections that could very well alter the state's political scenario will be out on Monday evening. Counting of votes will begin at 8am, with initial trends set to be available within an hour.

While Chief Minister Pi-

narayi Vijayan seeks a historic third term, the Congress eyes a comeback. On the eve of counting, both LDF and UDF appear confident, while BJP is hopeful of reopening its account in the State Assembly after a five-year gap. Upbeat over different pre-poll surveys and exit polls that predict a comeback, the Congress has made elaborate arrangements at the KPCC office, erecting tents and setting up huge LED walls to watch poll results live. **P7**



BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj with supporters after the recounting of votes on Saturday night. Jeevaraj seems to have a lead over Cong MLA D Devarajegowda in Sringeri | **P4**

BAGALKOT, D'GERE SOUTH
BYPOLL RESULTS TODAY | **P4**

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Woman kills her 2 kids, survives suicide attempt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a heart-wrenching incident, a woman allegedly killed her two young sons by feeding them milk laced with rat poison, and attempted to end her life following a domestic dispute with her husband, in Bengaluru on Saturday night.

The deceased have been identified as Nirmal (4) and Nived (1.5 years). The woman, Pavithra (26) also consumed the same milk in an attempt to end her life but survived and is currently undergoing treatment in a hospital. The incident occurred at their rented house in Mathikere, within the Yeshwanthpur police station limits.

Pavithra, a homemaker, allegedly took the extreme step late on Saturday night following a domestic dispute with

her husband, Prashanth. Prashanth, who hails from Pavagada in Tumakuru district, works as a sales executive at a mobile phone shop.

The couple had been married for five years and were staying in a rented house in Gokulam First Stage, Mathikere.

According to the police, a heated argument broke out between Pavithra and Prashanth. Following this, Pavithra was reportedly distressed, and Prashanth left the house. Later that night, she allegedly mixed rat poison in milk and gave it to the children before consuming it herself.

Prashanth returned home late at night and slept in the drawing room. On Sunday morning, Prashanth found his wife and children unconscious in the room. With the help of neighbours, he rushed them to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared the children brought dead. Pavithra is currently undergoing treatment in the ICU.

The police added that the couple had frequent quarrels over trivial issues in recent months, which may have led to the incident. The exact reason, however, is yet to be ascertained. The Yeshwanthpur police have registered a murder case against Pavithra based on a complaint filed by Prashanth.



Man's bid to scare son ends in fire mishap, both hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A father's attempt to scare his 19-year-old son, who had taken his bike without informing him, turned tragic after both sustained burn injuries in a fire on Friday. The incident occurred in Pragathiपुरa in the Kumaraswamy Layout police station limits.

The injured are Anand (45), a mason, and his son Mallikarjun (19), who works in a tile company. The incident took place around 9.30 pm. The police said that Anand, who was reportedly under the influence of alcohol, was angered after his son took his bike without informing him. Anand threw petrol on his son in an attempt to frighten him, police added. However, as

a neighbour was cooking nearby on the roadside, the petrol caught fire and spread to both of them, causing burn injuries. The neighbour doused the fire and rushed them to a nearby hospital. They were later shifted to Victoria Hospital. Mallikarjun sustained around 40% burn injuries, while Anand suffered about 18%.

The incident happened on Friday when Anand called Mallikarjun and got to know that he had taken the bike. Mallikarjun said he had gone to a temple, police said. However, Anand did not believe him and accused him of lying and roaming with friends. Later, when Mallikar-

jun returned home, an argument broke out between them. According to Mallikarjun's mother, during the argument, the son allegedly told his father to kill him. Enraged, Anand threatened to burn him, the police said.

An attempt to murder case has been registered against Anand at the Kumaraswamy Layout police station.



JAM, A THING OF THE PAST
Traffic moves with ease at the notorious Silk Board Junction on the newly inaugurated double-decker flyover connecting Ragigudda and HSR Layout | KEVIN NASHON

AAP leader accuses MLA Byrathi's supporters of vandalising her car

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AAM Aadmi Party's Vignan Nagar ward president Sathyavani on Sunday filed a petition with the Bengaluru Police Commissioner alleging that local BJP workers vandalised her car outside her residence and threatened her safety.

She accused supporters of KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj of carrying out the attack and warned that he would be "directly responsible" if any harm came to her. Speaking to report-

ers, she said, "Last month, in a similar manner, around 50 large flex banners containing defamatory and derogatory messages against me were printed and put up across the ward. Through this, the MLA targeted my character. At that time, I was not allowed to file a complaint at the HAL police station, as considerable pressure tactics were used by the MLA. Only after approaching the Lokayukta was a case registered. Even then, due to pressure from the MLA, the

accused were not arrested." She added, "This incident reflects how unsafe women have become in KR Puram. It is shameful that the police are acting under the influence of the MLA."

She added, "I have been fighting for several years against lake encroachments and have worked to resolve various issues in the constituency. Now, as the GBA elections are approaching and I am preparing to contest, such acts of violence are being carried out against me."



NU Hosp opens super speciality facility on Mission Road



BENGALURU: NU Hospitals inaugurated its new super speciality facility on Mission Road in Bengaluru recently (on Wednesday), marking a major addition to the city's healthcare infrastructure. The facility was inaugurated by Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dinesh Gundu Rao, who emphasised the growing need for advanced healthcare facilities and greater access to quality treatment in urban

centres. The hospital will provide specialised treatment in nephrology, urology, male infertility, pediatric urology, uro-oncology, robotics and transplants. Equipped with advanced medical technologies, digital infrastructure, the hospital aims to strengthen patient safety and improve clinical outcomes. The inauguration was attended by Dr CN Manjunath, Bengaluru Rural MP and former Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences; Ramesh Aravind, actor and filmmaker; Dr Venkatesh Krishnamoorthy, Chairman of NU Hospital; Dr Prasanna Venkatesh MK, Managing Director of NU Hospital; and Ramesh Kannan, Senior Partner, Somerset Indus Healthcare Fund. **ENS**

AUTORICKSHAW DRIVER KILLED IN SEAT DISPUTE

BENGALURU: The JJ Nagar police arrested a 46-year-old autorickshaw driver for allegedly killing a man over a missing seat in an autorickshaw on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Mubarak (26), an autorickshaw driver. The accused has been identified as Tabrez (46). On Friday, around 10 am, near 9th Main Road near Rehmaniya Masjid, Mubarak and Tabrez began their argument over a missing seat in Mubarak's autorickshaw. In a fit of rage, Tabrez allegedly picked up a wooden stick and struck Mubarak on the head. He sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Saturday. The police registered a murder case and arrested the accused on Sunday. **ENS**

NAME CORRECTION IN SHARE CERTIFICATE NOTICE

I, NAVEEN KUMAR G, S/o Annappa Gowda, aged about 67 years, residing at No. A-2, Raj Bhavan Quarters, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore - 560001, hereby state that my name is recorded as **NAVEEN KUMAR** in my share certificate (Folio No. JVS1360442) issued by Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd., whereas my correct name as per Aadhaar is **NAVEEN KUMAR G**.

Both names refer to one and the same person. This affidavit is submitted for correction of my name in official records. Date: 20.02.2025 Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, my client Srinivas.N, S/o. Sri Nagaraj, age 28 years, Residing at No. 199, Avalahalli, Virgonagar, Bengaluru-560049. The Gift Deed executed by my father Nagaraj, S/o. Venkateshappa, Aged about 63 years, Residing at No. 199, Avalahalli, Virgonagar, Bengaluru-560049, in favour of Srinivas.N and Ms. Pooja .N Who are the absolute owner of the above said property, which is mortally described hereunder herein after referred to as the schedule property.

The original Gift Deed dated 13.3.2023, Document No.BDH-1-09775/2022-23, Book-1, C.D. No. BDHD-1255 at in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bidarahalli, Bengaluru of my client's predecessor in title has been lost/misplaced on 28.12.2026 by my client while shifting house. In this regard my client has lodged the police complaint on 29.1.2026, vide Complaint No. 2033191/2026. The general public whosoever finds original document stated supra, may be handed over to my client or undersigned advocate. No person's or other than my client do not have any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or claims in relation to the said property. The public are hereby warned that any transaction whatsoever with respect to the said property would be at their own risk.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ITEM No.1: All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Portion of Property bearing No.42/1, Situated at AVALAHALLI VILLAGE, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet, along with AC Sheet Shed and bounded on the: **East** by: Property belongs to Mr./V.Ramamurthy, **West** by: Road, **North** by: Private Property, **South** by: Remaining portion of same property.
ITEM No.2: All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Portion of Property bearing No.42/1, Situated at AVALAHALLI VILLAGE, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and bounded on the: **East** by: Property belongs to Mr. V.Ramamurthy, **West** by: Road, **North** by: Private Property, **South** by: Remaining portion of same property. **South** by: Property belongs to Mr.Ganappa. **RAGHUVARDHANAN Y.R.**, Advocate at Yadagondanahalli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (M): 8884388836

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR MOVABLE PROPERTY (SPLOCA/AUC(1)/CR/03/2026-27)

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the KPIDFE Act and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the Hyundai Creta Car(Vehicle No : KA 01 MN 321) (Min Bid Price - 7,50,000/-, EMD-38,000, Bid Increase Value- 4,000/-) through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174 Or visit sploca.org.

Date: 29.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/468/NR/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority (IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

BENGALURU URBAN, BENGALURU RURAL & RAMANAGARA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD., (Bangalore Dairy) : Dr.M.H.Marigowda Road, D.R.College Post, Bengaluru-56002

TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL TENDER OF WORKS PART-1 TENDER INVITATION (IFT)
IFT No. BAMUL/GM(E)/E-Tender/Civil/3/01/26-27 **Date : 30.04.2026**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible tenderers registered in PWD Department / Central PWD Department/ M.E.S Departments at the following places at Bangalore Milk Union Ltd. Work / Services details and schedule is given in the Table below. The Earnest Money Deposit (E.M.D.) should be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender. Earnest money deposit will have to be paid in any one of the forms as specified in the tender document through e-procurement portal only.

Package No.	Name of Works	Estimated cost of work (In Rs.)	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Period of Completion	Contractors Grade
KW-2	Construction of helipad at nandini milk product complex for bangalore dairy	31,92,158 + 18% G.S.T= 37,66,747	50000	60 Days	Class-3 and above
KW-2	Providing and fixing of precast compound wall to newly purchased land at nadaprabhu kempegowda layout kannali	21,35,635 + 18% G.S.T= 25,20,049	31500	60 Days	Class-3 and above
KW-3	Providing and fixing ms truss and gi sheet at uht milk loading area at nmcp kanakapura	10,28,792 + 18% G.S.T= 12,13,975	18500	90 Days	Class-3 and above

1	Availability to receive technical tender documentation. (Access to E- Tender Portal only)	From 04.05.2026 upto 3.00 PM
2	Last date for tender Queries	14.05.2026 upto 2.30 P.M.
3	Last date & Time for Submission of Tenders	18.05.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical Tender (Part-1)	20.05.2026 upto 10.30 A.M.
5	Date & Time for opening of Commercial Tender (Part-2)	Will be informed to successful Tenderer
6	Place of pre-bid meeting, opening of Technical/Copmercial Bid	Bamul, Board Romm, Dr. M.H.Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560029.

More details on the tender are available in e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Managing Director
Tender Inviting Authority, Bamul.

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THE COURT OF THE III ADDL. PRINCIPAL JUDGE FAMILY COURT AT BENGALURU
M.C.No. 3154/2024
BETWEEN :- Smt. SHANTI MAJUMDAR
Aged About 42 years, D/o K P Ganesh W/o MITHUN MAJUMDAR No. G 696, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main HAL, Behind HAL Police Station, HAL QTRS CTS, Marathalli, Doddanekundi, Bengaluru-560 037
Shanlinmajumdarr@gmail.com ...Petitioner
AND :- Sri MITHUN MAJUMDAR Aged About 42 Years, S/o Mihir Manjundar R@No 11, Sai Venkateshwara Nilaya, Flat 102, Swami Vivekananda layout, Idgha Road, Varthur, Bangalore, Karnataka.
Mithunmajumdarr@gmail.com ...Respondent

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT
Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed the above petition Under Section 13 (1)(i) (a) of Hindu Marriage Act for dissolution of marriage against the respondent and such other relief, you are hereby summoned to appear in person through a pleader duly instructed before Ill additional principal judge family court, Bengaluru. Take notice that default of your appearance 25th June 2026 at 11.00 A.M. the petition will be heard and determined in your absence placing you Ex-parte. Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on 16th day of March 2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristadar
Family Court, Bengaluru
Address of the Petitioner Advocate
Varghese Salvan P.S.
M/s Cannon law Chamber Advocate and Consultant
209/1, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Bellandur (v&p)
Bangalore-5600103 Ph. No. 9886134352.
Mail id: cannonlawchamber@gmail.com

DOCUMENT LOST
I, VANMALA SHANKAR, aged about 80 years, W/o Late R. Shankar, residing at C701, Pramuk Temple Meadows, 27th Cross, Opp Sevashrestha Hospital, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka-560070, I have lost the below Original documents (List of Missing Documents Sale Deed, Khata Certificate, EC, Property Tax Receipts, Allotment Letter from Housing Society, Possession Certificate, Payment Receipts towards Society, Alienation Copy, CD Patti of Site Release, Mada Approved Plan Copy and Other Site Related Documents) have been misplaced/lost. Document No. MYN-1-07533-2009-10. Property situated at (No.259, Sri M V Badaavane, Lingabudi, Mysuru). Site Measuring 40x60 feet. In this regard I had lodged a police complaint with Banashankari Police Station vide Complaint Number. 2180606/2026, Date: 30/04/2026. If found, please inform me. Mobile: +91 9880768691 or to the nearest Police Station.

DAKSHINA KANNADA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED (DKMUL)
Kulashekara, Mangalore- 575005
Phone : 9448869034 E-mail : dkmulpandi@gmail.com

IFT No.: DKMUL/PANDI/455 /2026-27 **Date: 28.04.2026**

Tender Notification (Through e-Procurement Portal)

DKMUL invites tenders for the period of 1(one) Year and 3 years from "Wholly Owned by Government of India Public Sector / Co-operative insurance companies with IRDAI Registration" who deal with the cattle insurance for cross Breed Heifers / Cows / Local Cows/Bufaloes (Without PTD Coverage) belongs to Members of the MPSC of DKMUL from dated 01.08.2026 to 31.07.2028

Sl. No.	Item Description	Approximate Qty	Nominal EMD (Rs.)
1	Cattle Insurance for cross Breed Heifers / Cows / Local Cows/Bufaloes (Without PTD Coverage) coming under DKMUL union for period of 1 year and 3 years.	40,000 number of cattle per year	1,000/-

The tenderers may submit tenders for above detailed at annexure-A. Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in tender document to qualify for award of the contract.

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested tenderers may obtain further information at the same address. The DKMUL will not be held responsible for the website problems if any, last date submission or non-receipt of the same. Also may contact Help line No: 8046010000, +91 8068948777 or visit to support@eprocurehelpdesk.com

Date of commencement of Tender : From 04.05.2026
Date of Pre bid Meeting : 03.06.2026
Last date for Uploading of Tender : on or before 05.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : on 08.06.2026 at 10.00 AM
Date of Commercial bid opening : After Technical evaluation
Other details can be seen in the tender document.

Sd/-
Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)
Dakshina Kannada Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division
BBMP Commercial Complex 2nd Floor,
Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030

No. E.E/(BTM)/kppp/03/2026-27 **Dated : 02.05.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through GOK Kppp Portal only)

The Executive Engineer BTM Layout Division, BSCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bengaluru South City Corporation and equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below :

SI	Name of the Work
1	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 17 N S Palya for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
2	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 18 Vishwamanava Kuvempu ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
3	"Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 19 New Tavarekere ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : CAT-I
4	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 20 Madiwala ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
5	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 21 Chikka Adugodi ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 18,750/- 2nd Call, Category : ST
6	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 22 S G Palya ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 18,750/- 2nd Call, Category : SC
7	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 23 Lakkasandra ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
8	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 24 A Adugodi ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
9	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 26 Egipura ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others
10	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 27 Sri Lakshmedevi ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 18,750/- 2nd Call, Category : SC
11	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 28 Koramangala East ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 18,750/- 2nd Call, Category : II(A)
12	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 29 Koramangala West ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 18,750/- 2nd Call, Category : II(A)
13	Annual Maintenance of roads and Footpaths in ward Jurisdiction area in ward No. 30 Jakkasandra ward for the year 2026-27. Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. : 37,500/- 2nd Call, Category : Others

Tender documents can be downloaded through KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (1) Last date and time for receipt of tender on or before 11.05.2026 upto 16.00 hours. (2) Date and Time for opening tenders on 12.05.2026 at 16.30 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation

7 Kerala districts may face violence: Intel

'Strife could brew in some pockets of Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Palakkad, Thrissur, Kollam and T'puram'

SHAN A S @T'Puram

AHEAD of the vote counting on Monday, the state intelligence wing has warned of possibility of political flare-ups in the state.

The intelligence report has pointed out that strife could brew in certain pockets of Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Palakkad, Thrissur, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts, and that additional forces should be deployed to avert any eventualities. The report emphasised that Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts should be watched keenly, while hot spots in other districts should also be monitored.

Following these reports, the police have fielded 10,000 more policemen, apart from the local force, to crackdown on any violent incidents. About 2,000 personnel from the central armed police forces have also been deployed, sources told TNE.

The intelligence wing also warned of possible attacks targeting certain candidates who contested the election. Candidates, whose threat perception were deemed high, has been provided police pickets outside their residences, while patrolling has also been increased to

rule out any misadventure from the part of political criminals.

Police sources said there has been apprehensions on whether political showdown would in turn precipitate communal frenzy in certain troubled areas and special measures have been taken to keep things under control.

"Instructions have been given to identify agent provocateurs in each constituency limits and they have been issued warnings not to indulge in any criminal activities that could endanger peace. We had collected details of post-poll violence after the assembly and the recent local body elections. After analysing it, we have taken a slew of measures to prevent any untoward incident from happening," said a senior police official.

To prevent eruption of violence in counting centres, multi-layered security has been arranged in all the centres. There are 42 counting centres in 111 buildings across the state and security measures have been taken to avoid any violent escalations. The perimeter, outer cordons and inner cordons will be established in counting centres and access to the places will be regulated.



With Tasmac outlets ordered to remain shut on Monday in view of counting of votes, people through a liquor shop at Koyambedu in Chennai on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

'Those gambling on Vijay's name will regret decision'

CHENNAI: VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan on Sunday alleged that betting has been going on in the name of TVK president Vijay post polls, but those indulging in this, he said, would be disappointed once the election results are out. Answering queries of reporters in Chennai, the VCK president said, "Before the elections, this betting was conducted by projecting the DMK (as the party with the winning prospects). After the polls, they have been moving these gambling stakes by projecting Vijay. Those indulging in this will be left disappointed after the results."

Responding to a question, Thirumavalavan said, "I have campaigned in around 40 constituencies, and from that experience, I am confident that the DMK-led alliance will win this election and the Dravidian major will form the government on its own." In response to another question, the VCK chief said there is no possibility of the TVK capturing power and that a large number of youths have also voted against TVK. "We cannot claim that 100% of the youth have supported Vijay. A large number of them speaking against the actor are on social media. A section of the youth is there which advises against the kind of politics indulged in by Vijay," he added.

UDF eyes repeat of local body poll feat in Kerala

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE UDF leadership sounded confident of a landslide victory with 85+ seats, a repeat of its authentic win in the recent local body elections. Despite exit polls and own internal assessments not painting a rosy picture, the Left camp still hopes to retain power.

LDF convener T P Ramakrishnan underscored that the LDF has no concerns about the verdict, as it is confident of continuing in power. While most surveys predict an LDF loss, the CPM is banking on its own internal assessments of garnering 72-78 seats.

The saffron camp is confidence personified after snatching Thiruvananthapuram corporation from the LDF and hopes to make it big in a couple of strongholds in the capital, in addition to a few seats in central and north Kerala, with a winning tally of close to 5 seats. As a do-or-die battle, nothing short of a win would do for both LDF and UDF. For the Left which broke a

decades-old practice with a second consecutive term in 2021, victory is imperative to keep the only red fortress in the country intact. A defeat would mean loss of face for Pinarayi, while a win would gift him invincible stature in Kerala politics.

Curiously, it is almost the same for the Congress and the UDF too, especially Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan. A defeat would mean political exile. A second consecutive loss in assembly polls would also mean a

UDF disintegration, as many minor parties and a few major ones would leave the front for good. The public fight over chief ministership within the Congress, even before a single vote is counted, too does not bode well for the front. A victory, however brittle the margin may be, is imperative for a Congress' revival.

The BJP on the other hand is not just trying to win a few seats but also to increase its vote share. Contesting with fresh partners like Twenty 20, the NDA is all set to show its might.



Security personnel stand vigil at the counting centre at Mar Ivanios Vidya Nagar in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday | BP DEEPU

Instructions have been given to identify agent provocateurs in each constituency limits and they have been issued warnings not to indulge in any criminal activities that could endanger peace

—Senior Kerala police official

ITF WOMEN'S W35

Cab driver's daughter shines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

AS the ITF Women's W35 Tumakuru Open 2026 got off to a flying start in Tumakuru on Sunday with the qualifying matches, 17-year-old **Meghana GD** was the cynosure of the audience. The girl who hailed from Gidunahalli in rural Tumakuru made her villagers and parents proud as they gathered with curiosity to watch the match. Playing with a wildcard entry, she elevated herself to the international tennis scene.

Meghana's father Dhananjaya is a cab driver in Bengaluru, and he has dedicated himself to see her achieve accolades in tennis. Her mother Nandini works with a private company. Her grandmother Kamalam-



ma also came all the way from Giduganahalli village to watch the match, of which the audience included Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Deputy Commissioner Subha Kalyan and Superintendent of Police Ashok KV.

Meghana went down by 4-6 and 3-6 in straight sets to 12th seed Aishwarya Jadhav of Maharashtra. Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSSTA) Joint Secretary Sunil Yajaman was all praise for her.

Parameshwara, on behalf of his Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE), announced a contribution of 30,000 USD towards the prize money for the tournament. More than 70 players from around eight countries are participating in this event.

Armed gang robs 1 kg gold in Telangana heist

NAVEEN KUMAR TALLAM
@Karimnagar

FIVE armed miscreants struck at the PMJ Jewellery shop in the city at around 11 am on Sunday, escaping with about 1 kg of gold ornaments and leaving four employees injured. The shop, where the daylight robbery occurred, is located very close to the court complex and the office of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

According to the police, only one gang member entered the shop posing as a customer and asked the staff to show him a gold chain and a ring. Soon, four more walked in and pulled out pistols. They forced the staff to kneel before proceeding to collect gold jewellery and pack it into backpacks. The incident, which lasted about 10-15 minutes, created panic as the miscreants opened fire when employees tried to resist. Four staff members sustained injuries in the firing, with bullets hitting one of them in the head and another in the abdomen. The shop floor was splattered with blood-

stains, indicating the brutality of the attack. A woman employee who tried to hide in the washroom was dragged out and tied up with ropes by the robbers. Later, ropes and adhesive plasters used in the crime were found in a nearby drain.

CCTV footage captured the accused fleeing on bikes - one a black Pulsar and another a white Apache - through an opposite lane. City Police Commissioner Gautham Alam visited the spot, interacted with the staff, and inspected the premises. Clues teams were pressed into action, and multiple police teams have been formed to track down the robbers.



A screen grab of the CCTV footage of some armed men robbing PMJ Jewellery shop at Jyothi Nagar in Karimnagar, Telangana, on Sunday | EXPRESS



EVERY DROP COUNTS

Boys cool off under the gentle trickle of water at Courtallam Main Falls in Tenkasi district of Tamil Nadu as soaring temperatures grip the region | V KARTHIKALAGU

Summer rush at Tirumala, 92,000 devotees have darshan

B MURALI @ Tirumala

TIRUMALA witnessed a massive summer rush over the weekend, with more than 92,000 devotees having darshan on Saturday alone.

Temple officials said the surge was managed with great difficulty, and darshan continued until 1.30 a.m. on Sunday

before resuming with Suprabhatham at 2.30 a.m. By 8 p.m. Sunday, another 56,000 devotees had completed darshan.

Officials noted that the influx was particularly heavy due to school and college holidays, with an estimated 1.5 lakh pilgrims staying in Tirumala on Saturday.

Superintendent Ramakrish-

ORDEAL FAR FROM OVER

Odisha man to undergo purification ritual for exhuming sister's remains

DEBASHIS MISHRA @Keonjhar

THE ordeal of Jitu Munda, who exhumed his deceased sister's skeletal remains from the grave and carried it to the bank as proof of her death in Keonjhar district, is far from over as he now faces social boycott due to his act.

The Ho community, which he belongs to, has imposed on him a purification ritual for exhuming the dead, failing which he may be expelled from his tribe and face ostracism.

The decision was taken at a village council meeting in Di-anali under Patna block, where community members directed Jitu to undergo the purification. They warned that failure to comply could lead to his exile. According to villagers, the ritual has been prescribed because Jitu exhumed his sister's remains, which is considered to be an act of sacrilege in the community. His sister Kalara Munda died on January 26, 2026 and was buried under a tree near their house.

As per the village committee decision, the rituals would have been conducted on Sunday but was deferred as he did not inform his relatives. "It will now be conducted on Wednesday. Apart from the villagers and community members, his relatives who reside in other villages and in-laws will have to be present," said Jitu's relative Ramraya Munda. The ceremony will in-

volve a purification bath in the village pond, tonsuring his head and other rituals conducted by a community priest. He will then host a feast for the around 20-25 houses in the village and other invitees, which will include serving handia (tribal rice liquor) and chicken to them.

Jitu said he has agreed to all the terms, otherwise he would not be allowed to be a part of the community. "I have to undergo all the rituals as per the customs of our community," he said. On April 27, Jitu visited the Mallipashi branch of Odisha Gramya Bank to withdraw ₹19,300 deposited in the name of his deceased sister, but bank officials reportedly asked him to either produce her in person or submit a death certificate.

In response, he went to her burial site, about 4 km away, exhumed the remains and returned to the bank carrying the bones in a sack to establish proof of her death.



A file picture of Jitu Munda

EXPRESS READ

Pests and drought: Mango yield dips 50% in TN hub of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri

DHARMAPURI: Mango harvest in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, the hub for the 'king of fruits' in the state, has declined by nearly 50% this year, with farmers citing a variety of reasons such as increased pest attacks, water shortage, anthracnose infections and erratic weather. In several areas in the two districts, the productivity, which usually stands at 9 to 10 tonnes per hectare, has dropped to nearly 5 tonnes. Of the major districts in TN cultivating mangoes, Krishnagiri occupies the prime position with an area of 33,679 hectares, followed by Dharmapuri with an area of 18,388 hectares. **ENS**

Chennai sizzles at 40.6°C, Vellore is hottest in Tamil Nadu at 42.7°C

CHENNAI: Dog days continue in Chennai as the Meenambakkam weather station in the city recorded 40.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday, which is the highest temperature recorded this summer. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre, Nungambakkam recorded 37.8 degrees Celsius. Vellore once again emerged the hottest region at 42.7 degrees Celsius, followed by Tiruttani (42.2 degrees Celsius), Erode (41.2 degrees Celsius), Karur Paramathi (40 degrees Celsius), and Dharmapuri and Tirupattur (39.7 degrees Celsius). **ENS**

24-year-old held for killing 70-year-old, sexually assaulting his wife

KRISHNAGIRI: Nearly after two months of search, Samalpatti police arrested a 24-year-old man, who allegedly sexually assaulted a 61-year-old woman and killed her 71-year-old man near Uthangarai, Tamil Nadu. The suspect, M Manikandan is from Uthangarai. On March 8, Manikandan allegedly attacked a 71-year-old man using an iron rod and sexually assaulted his wife. The man died without responding to any treatment at Uthangarai government hospital. **ENS**

HISTORY SPEAKS

Rare deer-hunting hero stone found in Kundapura

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

A RARE deer-hunting hero stone has been discovered in Vakwadi village of Kundapura taluk in Udupi district. While hunting hero stones are common in south India, they are extremely rare in the Tulu region. This newly-discovered stone is only the second-of-its-kind in Tulu Nadu, the first being in Someshwara, Hebri taluk of Udupi district, according to a release from Prof. T Murugeshi, an archaeologist and

founder-trustee of the Adima Kala Trust which carried out the excavation.

The rectangular stone slab, measuring approximately 45 inches in height and 22.5 inches in width, features intricate carvings arranged in three panels. The lower panel depicts two heroes holding hunting dogs. The middle panel illustrates two figures, one wielding a bow and the other a spear, piercing a deer's neck. The top panel shows the heroes seated in a salute posture on either

side of a Lingam, surmounted by a Dravidian-style Vimana. Experts note that the details of the animals, especially the dogs and deer, are sharply defined, reflecting high craftsmanship.

No inscriptions were found on the stone, making precise dating challenging. However, the Lingam placed on a high plinth resembles those found in 8th-10th century Shaiva temples in Tulu-nad. Murugeshi estimates that the stone likely dates back to the 9th-10th century AD.

The depiction of the hunting

heroes provides valuable insight into their social standing. The figures are adorned with KantaBrana necklaces, Bhujakirti armlets, Tolabandhi waistbands, Kadaga armguards, earrings, and small daggers, suggesting that they were not ordinary hunters but possibly princes of the Alupa royal family.

The stone is also historically significant for depicting antlered deer, a rare subject in hero stones. While depictions of wild boar hunting are more

common, the representation of deer hunting and the death of heroes in such hunts is exceptional. Interestingly, antlered deer still roam the Sri Mookambika wildlife forests, linking the stone to the region's enduring natural heritage.

Prof. Murugeshi emphasised that this discovery sheds light not only on the martial and royal traditions of early Tulu Nadu but also on its rich ecological history, making it an important addition to the region's archaeological record.



The deer-hunting hero stone discovered at Vakwadi village in Kundapura taluk in Udupi district

JITU MUNDA CASE SHOWS HOW CUSTOMERS BECOME DATA FOR MODERN BANKS

SCHELETAL remains of his dead sister slung over his shoulders, Jitu Munda's walk to a bank in Odisha will linger in public memory. The daily wage-earner had a simple request: access to his deceased sister's savings. Unable to produce official proof of death, he exhumed her remains in desperation. The video of his visit went viral, drawing outrage. He spoke of repeated failed attempts, of being turned away of humiliation where he expected help. The bank initially defended itself with rules on third-party withdrawals and even questioned his conduct. Only after public anger swelled was the matter resolved within a day. Few episodes capture the stark distance between banking institutions and individuals.

But Munda's ordeal is not an isolated case. India's retail banking sector has grown rapidly recently, supporting economic growth with strong reach and stability. In 2024-25, scheduled commercial banks reported a record net profit of ₹4.01 lakh crore, while public sector banks contributed ₹1.78 lakh crore to this total. Technology has changed how banking services are delivered. Digital payments have increased sharply, and banking services now reach deep into rural areas. Efficiency, large-scale operations and high profits now define the system's overall success. The mind-boggling numbers of apps, QR codes and instant credit products have penetrated into smaller towns such as Munda's Keonjhar's Malliposhi. However, in the relentless competition to sell loans, insurance and credit cards, algorithms call the shots, process matters and performance is measured in figures. A customer is but an account in a manager's portfolio, a risk category or a missed target.

This shows up in many ways across India. Customers face more cases of digital fraud and smart scams, often with little help. Mis-selling of financial products still happens, as staff are pushed to meet targets. Charges and penalties are not always clear, which hurts trust. Complaints are often slow to resolve and feel impersonal, as automated systems replace real interaction. Aggressive marketing, unwanted calls and confusing product terms add to the burden. For rural and less digitally literate users, access itself can be difficult; for urban customers, the problem is dealing with complexity without clarity.

The system works accurately, but not always with understanding. In 2016, ex-RBI governor Raghuram Rajan urged officials to spend a day as the *aam aadmi* to truly grasp everyday banking challenges. A decade on, that counsel remains relevant.

KAVITHA FACES KEY TEST OF HER PUBLIC STANDING

It was indeed a spectacle when Kalvakuntla Kavitha, former MP and daughter of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, took to the stage to declare her new political party amid projections of her as a chief ministerial aspirant. The move had been anticipated since her suspension from the BRS and subsequent exit, marked by sharp attacks on her brother K T Rama Rao and cousin T Harish Rao. This time, she went further, describing her father as a "soulless robot".

The question is whether this display of defiance will translate into political relevance in Telangana's already fraught landscape. The twist lies in the nomenclature of her party, Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS), which has secured Election Commission approval for registration. Notably, she had initially announced the name as Telangana Rashtira Sena, but the application reflected otherwise. This inconsistency points to a lack of clarity at the outset. It remains to be seen whether she can secure recognition for her TRS, a name that closely echoes the Telangana Rashtra Samithi founded by her father in 2001.

KCR had renamed his party as BRS in 2022 in a bid to expand nationally, a gambit that failed to yield results. For Kavitha, the road ahead is far from easy. The Congress is firmly in power; the BRS retains a strong opposition base, and the BJP continues to expand its footprint with clear intent. Her five guarantees are widely viewed as populist promises. While she has toured parts of the state in an effort to rebuild her image after it was dented by the alleged Delhi liquor scam, the impact remains uncertain.

If she persists, she may erode the BRS vote share at the margins. However, her immediate challenge is to establish credibility as a political force. The silence from her family and the BRS leadership, coupled with muted reactions elsewhere, suggests that her move is not yet being taken seriously. Kavitha is not the first woman to break away from a family-led party in the Telugu states. Y S Sharmila's trajectory—from launching the YSR Telangana Congress to eventually joining the Congress—offers a cautionary parallel. Kavitha will require more than rhetoric: an image overhaul, coherent policy direction, organisational depth and sustained political investment. One conclusion, however, is inescapable—her presence has the potential to unsettle the BRS.

QUICK TAKE

BUSINESS OF HARM

CRIME is now something you can order like a pizza. Across Europe, police say gangs are hiring people online for contract jobs to hurt or kill others. The dark gig economy is outsourced through encrypted chats. Europol says it found more than 1,400 people linked to these networks in about a dozen countries over the last year. Messages are sent, jobs are given and young people are paid to carry out attacks across borders. The work is quick and distant. It feels less like crime and more like logistics. When violence becomes this easy, it shows a society growing numb, where harm is just another service and cruelty becomes a convenience.

A year and a half into office, the National People's Power (NPP) administration finds itself mired in a series of controversies that undermine public trust. While the incidents emerge one after the other, it only makes matters worse to find the NPP arrogantly refusing to acknowledge its mistakes or to explain and apologise for corruption, complacency and inefficiency.

The past few weeks have proved dramatic and damaging to the administration's reputation.

These multiple controversies are of the NPP's own making, and like its predecessors, the NPP refuses to own up to its mistakes. Led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), NPP has a history of being quick to condemn governments that preceded it. But now in office, it remains tight-lipped about fraud and inefficiency, responding only when forced to. It lacks openness and acts only when matters snowball. The NPP has proved slow to act against its members' questionable conduct, responding only when public outcries intensify, threatening its foundations.

It all started when the government tried to brush aside the first doubt about its members' sincerity. In December 2024, the new government was questioned about the purported doctorate of the newly appointed speaker, Asoka Ranwala, triggering a public debate over fake credentials. Mumbled excuses bought some time, but no action was taken against him for a false declaration. When it became a question of reputation, Ranwala, who repeatedly promised to produce documentary evidence, stepped down from the position. There was no inquiry, and the matter was swiftly swept under the carpet.

For months, allegations were levelled against the NPP for inferior-quality coal procurements. As the West Asia crisis raged on, Sri Lanka's energy minister Kumara Jayakody resigned from his portfolio under severe public pressure on April 17. Jayakody had been indicted in a 2015 corruption probe. At the time, he was a procurement officer with the Ceylon Fertilizer Company, and his decision reportedly resulted in a loss of over Rs 8.8 million. Despite a mountain of criticism and a court indictment, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake did not remove him. Dissanayake insisted that he would not tolerate corruption in his government but chose to ignore Jayakody's past record.

The Jayakody saga created a serious dent in the government's reputation,

In Colombo, a pattern of silence, inaction and unclear decisions is drawing criticism, as confidence falls and expectations for stronger leadership and better governance remain unmet

PUBLIC TRUST AND A DEEPENING CREDIBILITY CRISIS

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting



SOURAV ROY

with serious allegations being made against the minister for importing sub-standard coal for the Lakvijaya power plant, until his rather late resignation last month. The government maintained a *volte-face*, undeterred by months of public questioning and defeated a no-confidence motion in parliament using its supermajority in a house elected entirely on an anti-corruption platform. What broke the camel's back was a national audit faulting the administration for the low-quality coal, which was affecting the power plant's operations, necessitating diesel-powered generation when energy prices were increasing and threatening supplies due to external conditions. Soon after Jayakody's resignation, Dissanayake appointed a special commission of inquiry, not just to enquire about his government's questionable purchase, but to

review coal purchases since 2009.

On April 30, Ranga Rajapaksa, a suspended assistant director from the finance ministry's external resources department, was found dead at his home. Forensic experts have ruled the death was due to self-inflicted injuries. He was recently suspended from his role at the ministry during an investigation into a cyber-fraud scheme resulting in a \$2.5-million loss.

In a damning report, the National Audit Office found that the award of a coal tender to Trident Chemphar Limited, a company considered a shell in India, violated tender procedures.

In the \$2.5-million heist, the plot has thickened, with the Criminal Investigation Department informing court that there had been an email compromise. For two months, the government closely

SUMMER OF KINDNESS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

thoughts' means, for instance, that when we feel angry, we realise that we're feeling angry but don't express it violently in everyday situations. Underlying such useful practices, 'real religion' does not seem to mean that we should sweat the small stuff like how we dress, what we eat and so on. In my view, that's a personal cultural choice, not a deep religious belief. Rather, Naam seems to be about gratitude. As evident from stories, the one thing that seems to deeply annoy every single god and goddess is ingratitude.



EXPRESS

In a world defined by disproportionality, little acts of humility go a long way. Awareness of self, commitment towards morals and expression of gratitude can provide guidance, offering an answer to the perennial question of the meaning of life

The deities also seem remarkably united on how we're supposed to express gratitude. One, appreciate the good things we have with deep awareness. Two, express that appreciation through kind words and kind deeds. Which is not to say that we meekly tolerate predators—our *devi-devta* are armed, remember, and always fighting demons, as we are meant to.

Regarding kindness, many years ago, a young researcher reportedly showed up in Kanchipuram with this question: What is life really about? He asked the Kanchi seer, Sri Chandrasekharendra Sarasvati, before a large gathering of the sage's devotees. They wondered how

their guru would reply, since there were many sources on the subject—the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, the two great epics, innumerable *stotras*, bhakti verses, philosophical views and *bhashya* or commentaries by great acharyas in the past.

The sage asked the devotees for their opinion. They politely declined to answer. They were delighted that the visitor had voiced their own deep doubts and existential queries so crisply, and felt an overwhelming interest in the answer.

The sage asked one of his helpers to fetch the *Srimad Bhagavatam* or *Bhagavata Purana*, revered as Mahavishnu's biography. The sage's choice flummoxed his devotees. It was an enormous book of 16,000-18,000 verses, depending on the edition. Its tenth section, about Sri Krishna, with nearly 4,000 verses, was the best-known and most-studied. When the book arrived, the sage told his helper to turn to the seventh *skanda* (section), sixth *adhyaya* (chapter), *shloka* (verse) 24. He asked that the verse be read aloud and that the learned in the audience translate it for all to hear.

This verse was said in the Bhagavatam by the young asura or titan prince Prahlad to his schoolmates: "*Tasmat sarvesu bhutesu dayam kuruta sauhrdam bhava asuram unmucya yaya tussyaty adhoksajah*", meaning, "Therefore, my dear young asura friends, act in such a way that Almighty God, who is immeasurably beyond any form we know, will be satisfied. Give up the demonic side of your nature and behave to all without enmity or otherness. Be kind and merciful to other living beings and become their well-wishers by showing them, through your deeds, that God is love."

In the deep silence that followed, the sage said, "The courtesy, compassion and love that we show others in God's creation reach God. The Upanishads give it the watchword 'Datta'. Give, benice. This love is most pleasing to God. So, the purpose of human lives is to show loving-kindness to all."

The story goes that the young researcher blinked back his tears, satisfied by the answer and that very few eyes remained dry.

(Views are personal) (shebaba09@gmail.com)

guarded a secret until the organisation 'Free Lawyers' revealed it to the public, causing widespread public shock. The government quickly claimed the treasury had been hacked and attempted to play it down. But Sri Lanka has seen fiscal scams before and the coal and treasury scams combined fuelled public criticism anew, raising serious questions about corruption, mismanagement and irregularities. To date, the government has not spoken of actions taken to prevent recurrence or to ensure the security of financial systems. The opposition, meanwhile, has called for a full-day debate on the treasury heist.

The fraud has highlighted the government's administrative deficiencies. The government broke its long silence, claiming that a hacker had compromised the system and announcing that an investigation is underway. It was discovered that the payments were sent to an account unrelated to the contractor.

As more questions are raised, the government attempts to manipulate the public narrative, reminding people of Machiavellian tactics of impression management through the utilisation of charm or by appearing competent or trustworthy, while concealing motives.

The NPP should remember that it was given a historic mandate to reform the system and implement rigorous safeguards, particularly for financial systems that were discovered to be vulnerable. It is an administration founded on an anti-corruption platform and reviving governance mechanisms to restore public trust. For decades, the JVP being the main constituent of the NPP, rebelled against the *status quo* and felt emboldened by the public rejection of the old political guard, which propelled it into office two years after the public uprising against the Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration. The NPP was installed to curb corruption, punish previous wrongdoings and ensure good governance.

The nation's fiscal framework is under scrutiny, raising concerns not only about administrative ability but also about political determination. The government continues to offer lame explanations as people continue to lose faith. A band of apologists, screaming in chorus and attempting to create a counter-narrative, will not work in a country that has reeked of corruption and has been compelled to thrust traditional political parties out of office.

The government must put its house in order or perish at the next electoral cycle.

(Views are personal) (dilrukshi@cir.lk)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Sponsors' verdict

Ref: *Paid prophecy, not psephology* (May 3). Once an intelligent craft to correctly feel the pulse of the people, exit polls have now slipped into commercial terms with sponsors calling the shots. Rather than falling victim to sensationalisation, the wiser course for the general public is to patiently wait for results.

R Sampath, Chennai

Storytelling connection

Ref: *Storytelling in the age of data* (May 3). Storytelling is a known vital transmitter of knowledge and tonal supplements are meant to make it suitably receptive. The undivided attention a story demands to be able to relate is unparalleled compared to other mediums of exchanging ideas.

Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Exciting tales

Who on Earth will not listen to stories which are a compendium of imagination, thrill, love, hate, bravery and catchy climaxes? These invariably imbibe values and enthusiasm in listeners. Kudos to all our grandmas and grandpas who took great joy in being storytellers!

Prahlad Chebbi, Dharwad

Outsider rhetoric

Ref: *Her last stand* (The New Sunday Express Magazine, May 3). The political discourse surrounding West Bengal once again appears driven more by narratives than by governance realities. The 'insider vs outsider' rhetoric is both misleading and divisive. Citizens from other states are not outsiders—they are equal stakeholders in the Republic. Labelling them otherwise weakens national unity.

Manicklal Chakraborty, Chennai

Pompous displays

Ref: *Bound by rituals* (The New Sunday Express Magazine, May 3). The unwanted pomp of displaying elephants in sweltering heat and fireworks that result in human casualties cannot be elucidated more poignantly. Jumbos are happy staying in the jungle, their natural home.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Digital literacy

Ref: *Paperless state judiciary* (May 2). Digital infrastructure directly addresses access to justice—something textbooks discuss but courts often struggle to deliver. The real test now is replication in larger, more complex states. Robust digital literacy training for court staff and judges must accompany any such expansion.

Prajesh Paramasivan, email

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All children to be screened for diabetes for free

Govt issues comprehensive guidelines for diagnosing and treating Type 1 and Type 2 variants on public health infra

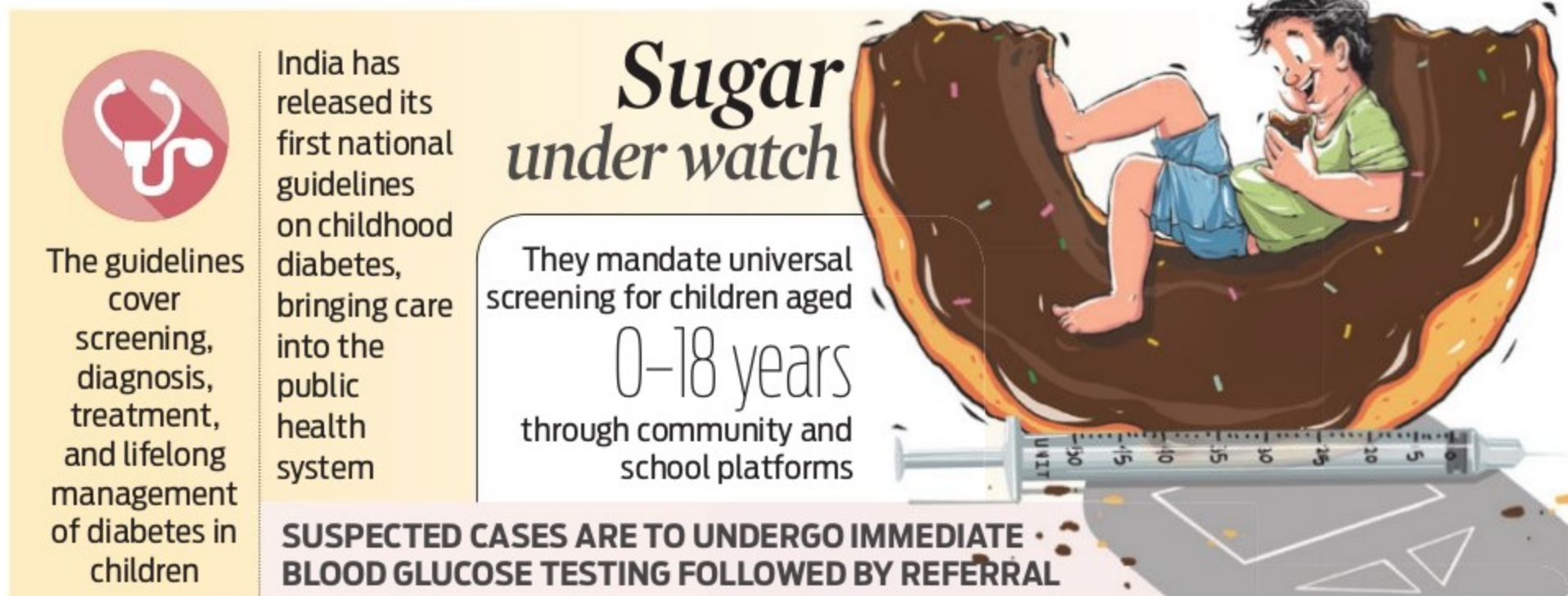
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA has released its first-ever national guidelines for screening, diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of childhood diabetes.

This positions India among a select group of countries that have integrated childhood diabetes care into the public health system. The guideline aims to ensure universal screening of all children from birth to 18 years, with early identification through community and school-based platforms. Suspected cases will undergo immediate blood glucose testing, followed by timely referral to district-level health facilities for confirmatory diagnosis and treatment.

A key feature of the framework is the provision of a comprehensive, free-of-cost care package at public health facilities. This includes screening, diagnostic services, lifelong insulin therapy, monitoring devices such as glucometers and test strips, and regular follow-up care. The approach is designed to ensure uninterrupted treatment for children diagnosed with diabetes.

The guidance document on diabetes will be covered under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram programme, which aims at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years of age for four defects: defects at birth; deficiencies; diseases; and development delays, including disa-



bility, thus spanning 32 common health conditions for early detection and free treatment and management, including surgeries at the tertiary level. The guideline also introduces an integrated continuum of care, linking community-level screening with district hospital-based management and advanced care at medical colleges. "This convergence ensures that care continues seamlessly from detection to long-term follow-up," the guideline said.

To support early diabetes detection, the initiative promotes the "4Ts" awareness framework—toilet, thirsty, tired and thinner—enabling parents, teachers and caregivers to recognise early warning signs of Type 1 diabetes.

As India is dubbed the "diabetes capital" of the world, the structured and standardised national framework is expected to deliver significant public

health benefits, including reduced mortality due to early detection, prevention of complications, and improved quality of life for affected children. Over the long term, it will contribute to lowering health-care costs and strengthening health system capacity for managing non-communicable diseases among children, health ministry officials said.

The Union Health Ministry released the 144-page 'guidance document on diabetes mellitus in children' at the recently concluded National Summit on Best Practices in Public Healthcare Service Delivery, with the aim to strengthen child health services. In addition to clinical protocols, the document emphasises family and caregiver empowerment, providing structured training on insulin administration, blood glucose monitoring, emergency response and daily disease management.

The framework provides a free comprehensive care package, including diagnostics, insulin, glucometers, test strips, and follow-up

It is implemented under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, which covers 32 child health conditions

The guidelines promote the "4Ts" signs—toilet, thirsty, tired, thinner—for early detection

They include structured training for families and caregivers on insulin use, monitoring and emergency response

The document said while Type 1 diabetes (T1DM) is more common in childhood, epidemiological trends indicate that the prevalence of type T2 diabetes is rising in children and adolescents.

Centre rolls out new rules on mental health

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a step towards strengthening child health services in the country, the centre has rolled out revised guidelines for its early childhood screening, treatment and management programme by including detection of mental health conditions and risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension.

The updated Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines, which was released by the Union Health Ministry, introduces a comprehensive preventive, promotive and curative continuum of care. A key feature of RBSK 2.0 is the expanded screening scope, covering a wider range of conditions, including developmental disorders, mental health issues, behavioural concerns, lifestyle risks, risk factors for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, and additional conditions like kidney disorders, health ministry officials said.

The updated guidelines have been developed as part of a more comprehensive framework in accordance with emerging child needs.

INSIDER TRACK

Women quota political gambit

A political chatter now emerging within the BJP appears intriguing and strategic. The idea of introducing a 33 percent reservation for women in its organisational structure comes after the Women's Reservation Bill failed in Parliament. The move looks both symbolic and calculated. Bihar is being seen as a possible testing ground, which feels deliberate given its history of shaping national politics. Party sources suggest more women may be elevated as office bearers during upcoming reshuffles, including in Uttar Pradesh. The signal is clear—shift focus from legislative failure to organisational action. There is also talk of inducing younger faces. Whether this translates into real power remains uncertain, but it certainly builds pressure on opposition parties to follow suit.



Shastri Bhawan plan delayed

The plan to vacate Shastri Bhawan has been deferred for at least a year, creating confusion among officials. Instead, Transport Bhawan and Shram Shakti Bhawan near Parliament are now likely to be demolished first. Ministries currently operating from these buildings are expected to shift into Shastri Bhawan temporarily. This has left existing occupants puzzled, as they were earlier preparing to vacate. Adding to the uncertainty, a wing of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, which had recently moved to Kartavya Bhawan, is now being brought back. Earlier instructions had asked ministries in Shastri and Nirman Bhawan to vacate by November to construct Common Central Secretariat buildings 4, 5, and 9 under the Central Vista project.



Haryana cadre preferred hub

A curious trend has emerged where IAS and IPS officers are increasingly seeking cadre transfers to Haryana, often citing marriage. The latest case is 2021-batch IPS officer Aditi Singh, shifted from Himachal Pradesh to Haryana after marrying Vivek Arya, a Haryana cadre IAS officer. Similar cases include 2022-batch IAS officer Utsav Anand from Uttar Pradesh, who moved after marrying Anjali Shrotriya. Others in the list are Rahul Modi from Andhra Pradesh cadre, Anupama Anjali and Renu Sogan from West Bengal, Kaanchi Singhal from Tamil Nadu, and IPS officer Amrinder Singh from Kerala cadre. A retired IAS officer remarked Haryana offers proximity to Lutyens' Delhi, better lifestyle and administrative exposure, making it a preferred posting choice.

Polls empty forces' headquarters

A massive deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in West Bengal for the Assembly elections has nearly emptied their Delhi headquarters of their top bosses. Records show over 2,400 companies have been sent to the state. More strikingly, Directors General of five major forces have personally moved there to supervise arrangements. Interestingly, these officers have jurisdictions that span across active insurgencies in the Northeast, live border tensions with Pakistan and China and Naxal-affected hinterlands. Even as their presence in Delhi is important, for days, they were in West Bengal, monitoring, coordinating and troubleshooting on the ground. This level of involvement is unusual during the election process in a state.

Caste balance cabinet strategy

With Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh approaching, the BJP is preparing a carefully calibrated cabinet reshuffle in both UP and Bihar. Sources indicate that influential leaders may be inducted to strengthen social coalitions and electoral strategy. In Bihar, former Deputy Chief Minister Vijay K Sinha may get a key portfolio, second only to the CM, between May 4 and 10 to arrest disquiet among Bhumihars. A Cabinet expansion is also likely following CM Samrat Choudhary's May 2 Delhi visit, with ministerial berths shared equally between alliance partners. In UP, the reshuffle may include influential leaders from Kurmi, Bhumihar, Dalit and broader OBC communities to ensure better representation. Key decisions, including organisational changes, are expected during the early May window.



Ministry forced airlines to lower Haj fare hike, says Rijiju; Cong seeks rollback

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID the Opposition demand for withdrawal of the circular raising the Haj airfare by ₹10,000 per pilgrim, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the ministry is only a service provider, adding that the increase was approved as the airlines had refused to operate flights to Saudi Arabia given the rise in fuel prices due to the West Asia crisis.

"Ministry officials sat down and negotiated with airline companies and brought the fee down from \$400 to \$100. So, for those going on Haj through the Haj Committee of India, there has been an increase of only \$100 (nearly ₹10,000), and for private operators, there has been an increase of \$150 US dollar," Rijiju said.

Congress MP and general secretary Syed Naseer Hussain said demand for an additional payment from every Haj pilgrim, payable by May 15, was made without prior notice and consultation. "Pilgrims had already paid in full over many

months. Many of them are elderly. Many are already in Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj. The hardship they face is not only financial. It is the experience of being treated as a revenue consideration rather than as citizens entitled to basic protection and dignity," Hussain said.

The MP said the government has maintained that the energy sector is stable and that citizens have been insulated from external shocks. "On what basis, then, is this burden being placed specifically on Haj pilgrims?" he asked.

Responding to complaints about poor sanitary conditions in accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia posted on social media, Rijiju said Indian officials work with difficulty to resolve every problem by talking to the authorities of the host country.

"Our officers and the Indian Mission in Saudi Arabia, our Council Consulate in Jeddah, work with great difficulty to resolve every problem by talking to the authorities," Rijiju said.

Govt rebuffs Nepal objection to yatra via Lipulekh Pass

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday pushed back against Nepal's claims over the use of Lipulekh Pass for the annual Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and said that its position on the route and the broader boundary question remains "consistent and clear," even as Kathmandu formally protested the pilgrimage plan.

Responding to remarks by Nepal's Foreign Ministry, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "India's position in this regard has been consistent and clear. Lipulekh Pass has been a long-standing route for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra since 1954 and the Yatra through this route has been going on for decades. This is not a new development."

The spokesperson also rejected Nepal's territorial claims, stating, "As regards territorial claims, India has consistently maintained that such claims are neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence. Such unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable."

Reiterating New Delhi's stance, the spokesperson said "India remains open to a con-



structive interaction with Nepal on all issues in the bilateral relationship, including on resolving agreed outstanding boundary issues through dialogue and diplomacy."

The response came hours after Nepal's Foreign Ministry objected to India and China's plans to conduct the 2026 Kailash Manasarovar Yatra via Lipulekh Pass, a high-altitude Himalayan corridor that Kathmandu claims lies within its territory. In a statement issued in Kathmandu, Nepal said it had not been consulted and described the move as unacceptable.

Nepal said the Lipulekh re-

India net loser in 'virtual water' exports: Report

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

INDIA leads the world in unequal "virtual water" trade, even as the country grapples with a major freshwater stress, according to a latest study by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

While advocating for increasing water tariffs to reduce virtual water trade, the study calls for investment in water infrastructure and technology.

The concept of virtual water trade (VWT) refers to the practice of exporting water-intensive goods, such as rice, cotton, sugar, and textiles. Essentially, India is exporting substantial volumes of its freshwater resources through these products, which is termed "virtual water export". Meanwhile, rich and industrialised countries benefit from these exports.

The report titled "Where the Water Flows: Infrastructure and Governance for a Sustainable Water Cycle" illustrates the global patterns of VWT, highlighting a distinct divide

- India leads global unequal virtual water trade despite high freshwater stress
- Virtual water trade refers to exporting water-intensive goods like rice, cotton, sugar and textiles
- India is the top virtual water exporter, followed by Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam



GLOBAL DEFICIT

- High-income countries are net importers with lower water stress
- Lower-middle-income countries are net exporters and face highest water stress

MAJOR IMPORTERS INCLUDE THE US, JAPAN, GERMANY, AND THE UK

- China and Bangladesh are importers due to their roles in global manufacturing value chains

- Top 10 net exporters & importers
- 1. India
- 2. Indonesia
- 3. Thailand
- 4. Pakistan
- 5. Viet Nam
- 6. Mexico
- 7. Brazil
- 8. Philippines
- 9. Russia
- 10. Laos

production.

Despite having a heavy agricultural base, China and Bangladesh are exceptions, acting as importers of virtual water due to their roles as manufacturing hubs in global value chains. Over the past two decades, China has transitioned from a virtual water exporter to an importer.

High-income countries remain net importers of virtual water while experiencing rela-

tively low and declining water stress. In contrast, middle- and lower-income countries consistently serve as net exporters. On an average, lower-middle-income countries face the highest water stress while simultaneously being net exporters of virtual water to high-income countries. This suggests that global VWT reflects production and trade specialisation rather than relative water availability.

National group of domain experts to vet security, build quality of highways

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TO enhance safety standards and ensure stricter quality monitoring of highway tunnel construction, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed to set up a national pool of multidisciplinary "tunnel experts" to independently review and examine the projects.

The step comes amidst growing recognition of the technical complexities involved in tunnelling works across challenging terrains, particularly in hilly and geologically sensitive regions. According to the officials, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) functioning under the ministry, will empanel domain experts, particularly retired government engineers and experienced professionals from diverse fields such as civil engi-



neering, mining, geology, and electro-mechanical systems. These experts will be tasked with reviewing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), examining technical proposals, and advising on construction challenges. As part of the proposal, the plan is also to draw technical experts from premier academic institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), besides consulting firms and independent engineers. NHIDCL is mandated with

the development and maintenance of national highways, bridges, tunnels and related infrastructure such as Multi Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs), multi-level car parking and water supply works.

"There is a need for third-party checks or inspection of works for effective monitoring and implementation of tunnels. NHIDCL therefore feels that the services of officers of the rank of Superintending Engineer (SE) and above such as Chief Engineer (CE), Engineer-in-Chief (E-in-C), Additional Director General (ADG), and Director General (DG) who have retired from service can be gainfully utilised, including technical personnel from consulting firms, independent engineers, PSUs, IITs/NITs," said officials.

A panel of tunnel experts will be prepared, and empanelled members would be assigned various tasks related to NHIDCL tunnel projects.

Ahmedabad	40	28
Bhopal	37	23
Jaipur	34	22
Amritsar	29	19
Chennai	35	28
Kolkata	33	24
Srinagar	17	09

Mumbai	33	30
Panaji	23	27
Patna	32	24
Lucknow	29	23
Port Blair	32	27
Imphal	26	19
Chandigarh	30	19

Ahead of counting, movement of forces on streets and near strongrooms defines city soundscape • Result likely to impact other NE polls

Silence across streets of Kolkata

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

A lull prevailed in Kolkata on Sunday, a day before the counting of votes for assembly polls is expected to raise a political storm. After a high-stakes electioneering, the results on Monday will decide the electoral fate of the ruling TMC and key opposition BJP in West Bengal.

The city, from Ballygunj in south to Bagbazar in north, almost looked deserted throughout the day after a large number of public buses and cabs went off the roads and many shops remained closed. The city is under a security umbrella. Central forces and Kolkata Police personnel patrolled the areas close to counting centres and strongrooms storing EVMs.

An undercurrent of silence and suspense was seen in Bhabanipur, where the TMC supremo and CM Mamata Banerjee is facing challenge from Suwendu Adhikari, leader of the Opposition. "In previous elections, celebrations were noticed in this constituency much before the result was announced. This time it is different. Presence of a strong opposition contestant has made the game tougher," said a confectionary shop owner at Suhashini Ganguly Sarani connecting Harish Chatterjee Street, where the CM lives. "Trouble erupted in the area on the day of elec-



A street wears a deserted look; (R) security personnel patrol on the eve of results of the Assembly polls in Bengal | EXPRESS

tions on April 29. Central forces resorted to lathi charge on agitating TMC supporters when the BJP candidate visited some booths," he added.

Bashir Mohamad, owner of a hotel at Esplanade, said, "I have never seen such a scene of silence and suspense in Kolkata before counting. It seems to be a lull before the storm comes on Monday.



Kalighat PS OC transferred again within 24 hours

The Kolkata Police on Sunday deputed an official of its Bhangar division as the officer in charge (OC) of the Kalighat police station in place of Chameli Mukhopadhyay, who only a day ago replaced Gautam Das, suspended for his controversial social media post. The matter assumed significance ahead of the counting of votes.

You can see how the Esplanade area, a prime hub of shopping plazas, wears a deserted look. Only, frequent movements of vehicles carrying Central forces and policemen are being noticed.

A tea stall owner said, "I have never seen such a huge number armed Central forces in front of the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School. Ear-



lier, only Kolkata Police used to look after the security arrangement at the school during the counting day. The administration has asked to close down my shop from Monday morning till the counting is over." Counting for the Bhabanipur assembly seat will be held in the school. A three-tier security arrangement has been put in place there.

Salman Habib, a Bengali (Hons) student of Aliah University, was desperately looking for buses. "I am waiting for buses for Bashirhat amid scorching heat but no bus is available. The entire city is almost under curfew with deployment of forces. Whatever they do, I want the Trinamool to come back again," said Habib.

BJP eyes Assam hat-trick, Congress seeks return to past glory after 10 years

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Assembly election results on Monday will decide whether the BJP-led NDA can hold its Assam fort or whether the Congress-led six-party Opposition front can oust the alliance from power. The BJP went to the April 9 polls eyeing a third straight term in power. The Congress, which lost several of its leaders to the BJP ahead of the polls, is hoping to return to the saddle after a gap of 10 years.

The exit polls predicted over 90 of the 126 seats for the NDA. The Congress dismissed the numbers as highly "exaggerated", alleging that the BJP came up with such figures through the agencies to put pressure on the officials and the Opposition candidates on the counting day. Assam has recorded nearly 86% voter turnout, unprecedented in the state.

"People voted with the hope of a 'New Bor-Asom' (greater/unified Assam) and new leadership," state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi had said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed, "...Our people voted with one clear resolve — to protect our land, our identity, and our culture from illegal in-



filtration and demographic aggression..."

The NDA wooed voters by promising to drive out the "infiltrators" already identified, sustain the development trajectory, and solve the perennial problem of floods. The Congress had tried to warm up to voters, flagging alleged corruption by the CM and the NDA government. The Congress's biggest promise was that it would ensure justice for singer-musician Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore, within 100 days of coming to power.

The Assam results may impact the elections in ethnic violence-hit Manipur next year, and in Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya in 2028.

BIHAR ROAD RAGE

Main accused shot dead in encounter

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE key accused in the April 29 killing of a BJP leader's nephew in a road rage incident in Siwan district was shot dead in a police encounter on Sunday. The accused, identified as Sonu Yadav, carried a bounty of ₹25,000 on his head.

Sonu was killed when police retaliated after he and his associates opened fire during a raid on his hideout near Gaushihata village under the Barharia police station limits. Police said that Sonu sustained a bullet injury to the chest during the encounter, leading to his death.

Officials said Sonu, a resident of Shreya village falling under the Hussainganj police station limits, was among the key accused in the road rage firing incident, in which 28-year-old Harsh Kumar Singh was killed. The father of the deceased, Chandan Singh, had also sustained critical injuries in the incident. Harsh, nephew of former MLC and BJP leader Manoj Kumar Singh, died on the spot while his father is undergoing treatment in Patna.

This comes after another accused, Chhotu Yadav, was injured in a separate encounter during a raid. He was subsequently admitted to a hospital. A third accused, Sunil Yadav, was arrested from Laddi Bazaar.

Kukis, Meiteis march in separate peace rallies on 3rd ethnic conflict anniv

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

MANIPUR marked the third anniversary of the ethnic conflict on Sunday, with Kukis taking out a 'tribal solidarity march' and Meiteis organising programmes, like a peace rally.

The day was peaceful, barring a low-intensity blast that occurred near the cargo terminal area of Imphal airport. No reports of casualties or damage to property were received.

Earlier in the day, thousands of people took part in the peace rally which was organised by the United Protection Committee, a body of clubs in the Nambol area. The participants called for the unity of Meitei civil society organisations and the protection of the state's territorial integrity. They demanded time-bound rehabilitation of the people displaced internally by the ethnic violence, implementation of the NRC, and the detection and deportation of the illegal migrants.

The All Tribal Students' Union, Manipur, organised the tribal solidarity march in the hill districts. Thousands of people took part in it in Churachandpur. The organisers asked the central government not to include Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes list.

The participants displayed banners which read, "Our land,



SOLIDARITY PUSH

- 1 The day was peaceful, barring a low-intensity blast
- 2 Thousands of people took part in the peace rally
- 3 They called for unity of Meitei civil society bodies
- 4 They sought protection of state's territorial integrity

Our Rights", "Stop Tribal Land Grabbing", "How can a Community with two-thirds of the seats in the Assembly demand ST status", "Stop Atrocities on Tribal People", "Come Let us Reason Together", etc.

Meanwhile, opposition party Congress said the MLAs should resign and seek a fresh mandate from people, as the government had been unable to bring a solution to the crisis in the last three years. "When peace remains absent for such a long period, accountability must follow..." Congress legislature party leader Keisham Meghachandra Singh posted on X.

Old guard uneasy as Uddhav moves to push Sena next gen

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

UDDHAV Thackeray's decision not to contest the election for the legislative council is being interpreted as a sign of change of guard in the Shiv Sena (UBT). Party insiders say Uddhav is preparing the ground for handing over the party reins to son Aditya Thackeray.

When Uddhav became the Maharashtra chief minister in 2019, he got himself elected as a member of the legislative council, while Aditya was elected to the assembly. The father-son duo had both Houses covered then. Aditya continues to be an MLA from Mumbai's Worli constituency.

Now, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominating Ambadas Danave as its candidate for MLC polls for the lone seat that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) can win, Aditya's stock is set to rise in the party. Observers say, with Aditya's ascent, Uddhav has made a decision to groom the next generation of leadership and bring fresh faces in the party.

Sources say that Aditya's involvement in party's decision-making has already increased, even when it is not being taken kindly by its old guard. However, Aditya seems undeterred and is planning to make large-scale changes for the next Lok Sabha and assembly elections.



Shiv Sena, by choosing Danve, has dropped its claim over the RS seat that could have seen the re-nomination of Raut for the Rajya Sabha... Aditya encouraged leadership of Danave over Raut — A source

"When Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut unilaterally announced Sharad Pawar's name as the MVA candidate for the Rajya Sabha, Aditya Thackeray was in favour of re-sending MP Priyanka Chaturvedi to the House. This time, the Shiv Sena, by choosing Danve, has dropped its claim over the Rajya Sabha seat that could have seen the re-nomination of Raut for the Rajya Sabha. Now, it will be tough for Raut to get elected to the Rajya Sabha. In short, Aditya chose to encourage and promote the state-level leadership of Danave over Raut," said a person who is privy to this development.

Sources said that Aditya plans to build his own team of young leaders from different

parts of Maharashtra. "In the coming day, we will see more changes that will help Aditya tighten his grip over the party," said an observer.

Maharashtra politics seems to be under a churn, especially when it comes to the INDIA bloc. Last week, NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule had claimed that she would not contest against any member of her cousin Ajit Pawar's cousin in Baramati again, as she had done in the last Lok Sabha elections against his wife, Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra.

The bonhomie between the two Pawar families could impact the fortunes of the INDI alliance, just as the change of guard in Shiv Sena (UBT) could.

Char Dham route gets longest railway tunnel

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN a landmark achievement for Indian engineering, Uttarakhand's Rishikesh-Karnaprayag broad-gauge rail project has reached a major milestone. Tunnel Number 8, spanning approximately 14.58 kilometres between Devprayag and Janasu, has officially become the longest railway tunnel in the country.

This critical link is being hailed as the backbone of the ambitious 125-kilometre rail line, which is poised to become the lifeline for the sacred Char Dham pilgrimage.

According to sources close to the tunnel's construction, the project utilised a sophisticated blend of engineering techniques. Engineers employed Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) for swift and precise excavation in stable rock zones, while the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) was utilised in more complex, fragile terrain. To ensure passenger



safety, the tunnel is equipped with double-line capacity, modern drainage systems, ventilation shafts, and dedicated emergency escape passages.

Given the sensitive Himalayan topography, nearly 83% of the entire rail route is being constructed underground. This design choice aims to minimize environmental disruption while ensuring a durable and safe infrastructure.

Expected to finish by 2028, the 125-km, ₹37,000 crore Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail-

way will link Garhwal to the rest of India.

"Building in this Himalayan stretch was exceptionally challenging," said Himanshu Badooni, Chief Project Manager, RVNL. "Despite constant water leakage, high pressure, and the difficulties of navigating limited access, our engineers and workers displayed incredible resilience. Successfully achieving the 'breakthrough'—connecting both ends of the tunnel—under such conditions stands as an achievement for this project."

Close shave for 30 tourists in Tehri lake storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

THIRTY tourists in Uttarakhand's Dobra-Chanti Lake area had a close shave on Saturday evening after a fierce thunderstorm snapped the axle joints of their floating huts, causing the structures to tilt.

A team of the state disaster response force (SDRF) personnel from Koti Colony saved the stranded tourists from drowning in a rescue operation launched around 7.45 pm.

The incident drew comparisons to the Jabalpur cruise tragedy on April 30, where 13 people died after a boat capsized in the Bargi Dam on MP's Narmada River. Officials noted that intervention by the SDRF in Tehri prevented another tragedy.

Punjab Police gets 84,000 samples of criminals in AI-powered 'voice bank'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Punjab Police has been equipped with an AI-powered voice recognition system, which houses a "voice bank" of over 84,000 samples of known criminals and suspects under the Punjab Artificial Intelligence System (PAIS). The move aims at penetrating networks of various gangs operating from abroad and misguiding the youth into carrying out illegal activities in the state.

Beyond voice identification, PAIS integrates a robust criminal database of over 3,90,000 offenders, complete with gang affiliations and phonetic search capabilities. Its advanced gang tree search tool allows investigators to visualise the hierarchy of organised crime networks, linking street-level crimes to their international masterminds.

Nearly 60 notorious gang-



sters linked to Punjab are operating from countries such as Canada, the US, Italy, and others, and law enforcement agencies have been grappling with a new wave of "remote-controlled" extortion, where threats are issued via encrypted apps and international virtual numbers.

Additional DGP of Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), Promod Ban, said, "For years, foreign-based gangsters have exploited technology to run extortion rackets from safe ha-

vens abroad. Under the 'Gangstran Te Vaar' campaign, PAIS has become a force multiplier. Our AI-driven voice matching can identify the caller within minutes, allowing us to act swiftly and decisively."

PAIS also enables authorities to intercept crimes before they occur. Recent operations have successfully thwarted targeted killings by tracking digital communications between foreign handlers and local recruits, leading to timely arrests and disruption of planned attacks.

"Earlier, we were often dealing with isolated incidents. Under the 'Gangstran Te Vaar' strategy, PAIS allows us to see the entire ecosystem: who is funding, who is coordinating, and who is executing. This intelligence-led approach is helping us dismantle entire networks, not just arrest individuals," he added.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

No relaxation in liquor ban, says Choudhary

After the change of power in dry Bihar recently, boozers who somehow have been getting liquor through 'backchannel negotiations' were hoping for some relief. But now they are disappointed as both Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and his deputy and senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary have ruled out the possibility of any relaxation in the prohibition law. Although BJP's two allies and union ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan have pitched for the review of the prohibition law, tipsters should not hope for any change in the government's policy. Nitish Kumar had enforced the prohibition law with a huge promise. Prohibition has stopped drunkard husbands from returning to their homes late.



Tej Pratap's conversation with MP's Baba goes viral

A video of a conversation between Lalu Prasad's eldest son and former state minister Tej Pratap Yadav and Madhya Pradesh's Baba Bageshwar, alias Dharendra Shastri, went viral on social media recently. The two were seen talking on a video call. During this, Tej Pratap sought to know from Shastri about his political future. Baba assured him that they would discuss it together. This video has become a topic of animated discussion on social media, as Tej Pratap had previously launched scathing attacks on the self-styled Baba. He had even opposed Shastri's visit to Bihar. Tej floated his own party named Janshakti Janata Dal (JJD) after he was expelled from the RJD in May 2025.

Govt's stern warning to criminals and mafia

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has warned criminals and mafias against carrying out crimes. Recently in Gaya, he told the criminals that their "Pind Daan" (a Hindu ritual performed for the dead) will be conducted in the pilgrim town, signalling a strict "zero tolerance" policy towards crime. He also asked police officials to ensure that criminals are dealt with so strictly that "tehrvi" (the 13th-day post-death rituals) are performed before they know it. Enthused by the CM's remarks, police engaged in a series of encounters in which two criminals were killed within a week.



One
Palestinian killed during Israeli raid
on West Bank village on Sunday



Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

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BENGALURU MONDAY 04.05.2026

Don warns he's yet to make Iran pay a 'big enough' price

Says war will resume if Tehran 'misbehaves'; US public's confidence in him dips further

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Iran was "yet to pay a big enough price" for what it did to the world in the last 47 years and expressed scepticism about the proposal sent by Tehran.

"I will soon be reviewing the plan that Iran has just sent to us. But can't imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what they have done to Humanity, and the World, over the last 47 years," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The US president also threatened to resume the war if Iran misbehaves. "If they misbehave, if they do something bad, but

right now, we'll see," he said. "But it's a possibility that could happen, certainly," he said.

Both Iran and the United States have imposed restrictions on ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial passageway for the energy industry exporting hydrocarbons from the Gulf.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that the US was "suffocating" Iran's leadership through an "economic blockade" launched alongside the US military offensive.

Meanwhile, the US approved \$8.6bn in arms sales to West Asian allies—Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—amid the war. The US said ap-

proved a \$4 billion sale of Patriot missiles to Qatar. Israel will purchase a squadron of F-35 stealth fighters from Lockheed Martin and another of F-15A warplanes from Boeing, its defence ministry said.

As the war drags on, Trump's overall approval ratings have dipped to 37 per cent. The war has dented the confidence of Americans in Trump's handling of economic issues, which were crucial to his political comeback in 2024. Americans disapprove of his handling of the situation with Iran by 66 per cent to 33 per cent. His rating on the economy has declined by seven points, to 34 per cent, as gas prices have spiked. His approval rating on inflation has fallen five points in that time to 27 per cent. Agencies

UK sets out fuel contingency plans for flights

LONDON

AIRLINES will be expected to consolidate schedules on certain routes with multiple flights to the same destination on the same day as part of contingency measures the UK government announced on Sunday.

The Department for Transport issued a series of temporary plans amid ongoing jet fuel supply issues caused by the US-Iran conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

It stressed that while UK airlines say they are not currently facing supply issues, the government is stepping in to protect travellers from the likelihood of last-minute flight cancellations over the upcoming summer holiday period in the event of significant disruption caused by the conflict.

"Since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the government has been monitoring jet fuel supplies daily and working with airlines, airports and fuel suppliers to stay ahead of any problems," said UK Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander.

"There are no immediate supply issues, but we're preparing now to give families long-term certainty and avoid unnecessary disruption at the departure gate this summer. This legislation will give airlines the tools to adjust flights in good time if they need to," she said. Alexander said the UK "will do everything we can to insulate" the country from the situation.

PTI

Khalistani extremists a national security threat: Canadian intel

OTTAWA

CANADA'S intelligence agency has declared Khalistani extremists a "national security threat", adding that the group uses institutions to promote its "violent extremist agenda" in the country. Canadian Security Intelligence Service, in its 2025 Public Report, highlighted that involvement of Canada-based Khalistani extremist (CBKE) in violent activities "continues to pose a national security threat to Canada and Canadian interests".

"Some CBKEs are well connect-

ed to Canadian citizens who leverage Canadian institutions to promote their violent extremist agenda and collect funds from unsuspecting community members that are then diverted toward violent activities," the report issued on Canadian Government's website on Friday said. Khalistani extremist groups demand the creation of a sovereign state within India and are designated as terrorist organisations by New Delhi because of their involvement in separatist activities.

The report comes a year after the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Air India Flight 182,

whose suspects were members of the CBKE groups.

"It remains to this day the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history, with 329 people killed, most of them Canadians," it said. The report, however, said that non-violent advocacy for the creation of a state of Khalistan is not considered extremism, and some Canadians participate in legitimate and peaceful campaigning to support Khalistan movement. "Only a small group of individuals who use Canada as a base to promote, fundraise, or plan violence in India are considered Khalistani extremists," it said. PTI



OPEC+ hikes oil production quotas but stays mum on UAE pull-out

VIENNA

SAUDI Arabia, Russia and five other OPEC+ countries increased their oil production quota on Sunday in an expected move aimed at demonstrating continuity at the cartel after the shock withdrawal of the United Arab Emirates.

The seven major producers will add 1,88,000 barrels per day to their total production quota for June amid the price pressure unleashed by the Mideast war, as part of "their collective commitment to support oil market stability", according to a statement published by OPEC+. The statement, following an online meeting of Algeria, Iraq,



A tanker anchored at sea in the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz | AFP

Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, Russia and Saudi Arabia, made no mention of the United Arab Emirates, which quit the body on Friday, three days after announcing its withdrawal.

Rystad Energy analyst Jorge Leon told AFP that the silence on the UAE's departure was a

sign of tense relations.

Oil market analysts had widely expected the increase of 1,88,000 barrels, similar to the 2,06,000-barrel daily increase OPEC+ announced in both March and April when the portion allotted to the UAE was subtracted. AFP

2 from Pak Hindu community to join civil service

ISLAMABAD

TWO men from the minority Hindu community have qualified to join the federal civil service of Pakistan, where representation of such groups in government jobs is low.

Jeevan Rebari and Khem Chand Jandora, both from Sindh province, were among the 170 candidates qualified to join the Central Superior Services (CSS) following the declaration of results by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) on

Thursday.

With a total population of 3.8 million, Hindus are the largest minority community in Pakistan, mostly residing in Sindh province, according to the 2023 population census.

Minority representation in Pakistan's CSS is historically low, prompting the government to launch initiatives like the special training programme in 2025 to increase inclusion. According to the FPSC, 12,792 people across the country appeared in the written examinations, out of

which 355 passed, and the total number of selected candidates stood at 170 after further rounds.

According to the official data, 123 seats reserved for minorities are vacant, which further highlights the importance of these men making it to the top list. Khem Chand's parents had to take loans at high interest rates and sell jewellery for their son's education, while Jeevan, due to a lack of resources, took shelter in a gurdwara and fulfilled his needs from langar, according to a BBC report. PTI

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Website : www.federalbank.co.in, CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Obligor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 10-06-2026, for recovery of ₹ 63,36,046.84 (Rupees Sixty Three Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Forty Six and paise Eighty Four Only), due to The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) as on 28-04-2026 under Federal Housing loan Scheme A/c.No. 1582730002895 with further interest and costs from (1) Shri Goriparti Ramya, W/o. Goriparti Srinivasa Rao, No. 709, 4th Floor, 12th Cross, 1st Sector, H S R Layout, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin - 560102 and 951, 8th Cross, 27th Main, Sec 1, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin-560102, (2) Shri Nandipamu Venkata Rao, S/o. Lakshmana Rao, No. 709, 4th Floor, 12th Cross, 1st Sector, H S R Layout, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin - 560102 and 2-441 Penkeedu, Hanuman Junction, Bapulapadu Krishna, Andhra Pradesh, Pin- 521105

Reserve Price which property will not be sold Rs. 16,50,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs 1,65,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Only)

(DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

All that piece and parcel of Two Bed Rooms Residential Flat at "MIYANS GREEN RESIDENCY" bearing Flat No. 103, on the First Floor and Measuring Total Super Built Area of 930 Sq. Ft. together with One Covered Car Parking Slot at Still Floor and 187 Sq.Ft. of undivided share in Landed Property bearing Site No. 112, Present Village Panchayath Property No. 150200103200201171240/112, Dated 30/03/2015, Site Bearing No.113, Present Village Panchayath Property No. 150200103200201172240/113, Dated : 30/03/2015, formed in B.M.R.D.A Approved Layout, Situated at "CELEBRITY LAKE VIEW" Carved out in Survey Nos. 56, 72, 73/2, 74/1 and 74/2 of Rajapura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Measuring : East to West : 65 Feet and North To South: 80 Feet in All Measuring 5200 Sq.Ft. and inclusive of proportionate share in the common areas along with all rights, interest and privileges thereon Boundaries of Land : East By : Site No. 120 and 121. West By : 40-0 feet Road. North By : Site No.114, South By : Site No. 111. Boundaries of Flat : East by : Corridor, West by : Set Back, North by : Flat No. 102, South by : Set Back.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the website of The Federal Bank Ltd i.e. <https://www.federalbank.co.in/web/guest/tender-notices>

Date : 28-04-2026 Place : Bangalore For The Federal Bank Ltd Authorised Officer under SARFAESI ACT

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhawan Road, Bangalore-560 001

O.A. No.504/2024

Between: Canara Bank ...Applicant

And Mr.Sabyasachidasmahapatra and Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS / NOTICE ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.2,01,63,290-98** (Rupees Two Crore One Lakh Sixty-three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and paise Ninety-eight only), together with current and future interest and other relief/s.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this Summons or on **29/05/2026 at 10:30 AM** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice of interim relief sought. Take notice that in case of default, the application/ interlocutory application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **29th day of April 2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

To: 1. Mr. Sabyasachi DasMahapatra, S/o. Bhabananda Das M., Aged about 37 years, R/at No. 81, 9th 'A' Main Road, 4th 'C' Block, Koramangala, BENGALURU-560 034. R/at C-Type Flat, Block-3 Kulti Township, 1st Floor, South Kulti M Bardhaman Kulti, WEST BENGAL-713 343.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhawan Road, Bangalore-560 001

O.A. No1483/2025

Between: Canara Bank ...Applicant

And M/s. Honnamadevi Exports Pvt. Ltd., And Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS / NOTICE ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 3,14,72,793.83** (Rupees Three Crore Fourteen Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three and paise Eighty Three Only) due as on 31/03/2025, together with current and future interest and other relief/s.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this Summons or on **22/07/2026 at 10:30 AM** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice of interim relief sought. Take notice that in case of default, the application/ interlocutory application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **16th day of March 2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

To: Defendant No. 3 Sri MANJUNATH K N, W/o Sri. Gowda N. K. Mayanna, Aged about 40 years, R/a. 18, 17, Suksherna, 2nd Main Road, Marenahalli, Vijayanagar, BENGALURU- 560 040.

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
Registered Office : No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s have availed loan from Equitas Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) / Equitas Finance Limited (EFL) / Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (ESFB). The said borrower/s had/have failed to pay Installments and their loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by RBI. The details of the secured immovable property/ies, loan and the amounts outstanding as on date payable by the borrower/s are mentioned below. The borrower(s) and the public in general are informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and not to deal with the said property, on failure to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same.

SR. NO. - 1, BRANCH - K.R.Puram, L. No. - SEKRPRM0226700
Borrowers/Co-Borrowers - Mr/Mrs Vijay V, Mr/Mrs Chidananda V, Mr/Mrs Munithayamma
Demand Notice Date - 25.03.2026 & Outstanding Amount - 867156

Description of Secured Asset - (Immovable Property) - All that piece and parcel of the immovable property site no.4, Katha no.110/73, situated at Veerena halli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, North By : Govt Road, South By : Property of Sy.No, East By : Property of Narayanappa, West By : Road.

SR. NO. - 2, BRANCH - Peenya, L. No. - 600000003059/700009205189/700009208222
Borrowers/Co-Borrowers - SAVITHAN, SIDDARAJU P M
Demand Notice Date - 31.01.2026 & Outstanding Amount - 3520696

Description of Secured Asset - (Immovable Property) - All that piece and Parcel of Immovable Property Site No. 1277, khameshmar no. 70/1277, Nagarasabha Katha P.I.D No. 6785235589, Sy No. 3/3 and 4/2, Measuring East to West 40 feet and north to south 30 feet, in total Measuring 1200 sq. Feet. And Property Site No. 1300, Old katha no. 70/1300, new khameshmar no. 70/ 1300 A, Nagaasabha Katha P.I.D No. 9694479225, Sy No. 3/3 and 4/2, Measuring East to West 10 feet and North to South 30 feet in total measuring 300 Sq. Feet. In total measuring East, North By : Road, South By : Katha No. 70/1276, East By : Road, West By : Katha No. 70/1300.

Date - 04.05.2026, Place - Bangalore Authorized officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of General Public that Original sale deed dated 30.01.2012 Reg No. JGN-1-08419/2011-12, Book No.1, C.D No. JGN0228, Registered the office of the Sub Registrar, Jigani, Bannerghatta- Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural district, pertaining to property bearing site No. 153, Assessment No. 222/2, Katha No. 1109, situated at Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural district, owned and possessed by Mr. Sharfath Ali Khan has been lost. A Police complaint is lodged online on 01.04.2026 the lost Report No. 2135278/2026. If any persons has/have any claim on the said property may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SYED SHUJAUDDIN Advocate #45, 3rd cross, Someshwaranagar, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 011. Mob. No. 9243132855

Your Guide to Spicy living

INDULGE

Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001 and one of the Branch Offices at 6th Cross, Thammie Gowda (TG) Layout, Opp. Hoskote Mission Hospital & Channakeshava Petrol Bunk, Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural - 562114, Hoskote Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 06-02-2026 calling upon the borrowers No.1) Mr. Ramesh .S, S/o. Shankar .K, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpeth, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053. No.2) Mr. Suresh .S, S/o. Shankar .K, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpeth, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053. No.3) Mrs. Pushpavalli, W/o. Ramesh .S, No.6, PVR Road, Ranasinghpeth, Near Cottonpet Police Station, Bangalore - 560053 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.6,50,229/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Nine only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 28-01-2026 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 30th day of April 2026.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs.6,13,146/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred and Forty Six only) and interest thereon from 29-04-2026 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Ramesh .S, S/o. Shankar .K)

All that Piece and Parcel of Western Portion of the Property Bearing Assessment No.16/8, Sl.No.1125, Situated at 3rd Cross, Dooda Gollarahatti, Hosahalli Gollarahallapaya Grama, Near Magadi Main Road, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring : East to West - 22.5 Feet, North to South - 21 Feet. Along with 4 Feet Passage at Northern Side, Bangalore Now Comes Under BBMP Ward No.40 and Bounded on : East by : Property Belongs to Sri. Suresh, West by : Road, North by : 4 Feet Passage and South by : Private Property.

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Suresh .S, S/o. Shankar .K)

All that Piece and Parcel of Eastern Portion of the Property Bearing Assessment No.16/8, Sl.No.1124, Situated at 3rd Cross, Dooda Gollarahatti, Hosahalli Gollarahallapaya Grama, Near Magadi Main Road, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring : East to West - 22.5 Feet, North to South - 21 Feet. Along with 4 Feet Passage at Northern Side, Bangalore Now Comes Under BBMP Ward No.40 and Bounded on : East by : Property Belongs to Sri. Eranna, West by : Remaining Portion Belonging to Mr. S. Ramesh, North by : 4 Feet Passage and South by : Private Property.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 30-04-2026 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD.)
Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s have availed loan from Equitas Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) / Equitas Finance Limited (EFL) / Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (ESFB). The said borrower/s had/have failed to pay Installments and their loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by RBI. The details of the secured immovable property/ies, loan and the amounts outstanding as on date payable by the borrower/s are mentioned below. The borrower(s) and the public in general are informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and not to deal with the said property, on failure to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) (NAME OF THE BRANCH)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Secured Asset(Immovable Property)
1	Branch: Channappana SECNP0333507 Borrower : Mr./Mrs Shivvaraju T M, Co-Borrower : Mr./Mrs Shobha	25.03.2026 Rs.72,161/-	All the peace and parcel of the immovable Schedule Property No.1529002031 01300388, Property Katha No.13/13, Situated at Achchalu village, Achchalu Gramapanchayath, Kanakapura talukku.Measuring east to west 9.45 mtr (31 feet), north to south 13.72 mtr (45 feet), Total extent 129.60 chntr (1995sqft), North By : Remaining property, South By : N H 209 Road, East By : Property of Siddaramaiah, West By : Property of Rajagowda.

Date: 04.05.2026, Place: Bangalore Authorized Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

Fire insurance: Cost, coverage and claims

In the event of fire damage, insurers generally cover the cost of restoring the property to its original condition

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

WITH increasing fire incidents across the country, it is time you think about a protecting yourself from the financial losses due to such incidents. In India, home insurance policies offer broad protection against fire-related damage.

Fire is among the primary insured risks under home insurance. Any physical loss, damage or destruction caused by fire to the insured property is covered. This applies to both structure of the house and its contents—ranging from walls and permanent fixtures to furniture, appliances and electronics.

Extent of coverage

In the event of fire damage, insurers cover cost of restoring the property to its original condition. For building, this means reimbursement for repair or

reconstruction costs. If the damage is extensive and qualifies as a total loss, the insurer pays out full sum insured.

The coverage extends beyond just repairs. Policies provide for associated expenses like architect or surveyor fees and debris removal costs, subject to specified limits. If the house becomes unfit for living, the policy may cover loss of rent or cost of alternative accommodation for a defined period. For household contents, insurers may choose to repair damaged items, replace them with similar ones, or compensate the policyholder. High-value items like jewellery or artwork are covered only if an additional cover has been taken.

Premium cost

Since a home insurance covers more than just damage from fire, a policy with coverage for



theft, natural disasters and liabilities cost can cost between ₹3,000-₹6,000 a year for ₹10-20 lakh coverage. A basic fire insurance may cost ₹1,500-₹2,500 for similar coverage.

Exclusions to watch out for

Despite the wide coverage, there are clear exclusions. Losses arising from deliberate or fraudulent acts by the policyholder are not covered. Similar-

ly, damages linked to war, nuclear risks or certain types of electrical and mechanical breakdowns may be excluded or restricted. There are exclusions on the type of items covered. Cash, securities, documents and vehicles are outside the ambit of standard home insurance. In addition, consequential losses like loss of income, business disruption or market value depreciation are not compensated.

Claims process

Filing a claim requires prompt and structured action. The first step is to inform the insurer immediately after the incident. Simultaneously, the fire must be reported to the local fire brigade and, where applicable, to the police.

Policyholders are likely to take reasonable steps to pre-

vent further damage and preserve the affected property for inspection. A formal claim must be submitted within the stipulated timeline, within 30 days, along with supporting documents like photographs, fire brigade reports and repair estimates. Insurers will appoint a surveyor to assess the damage, and full cooperation is required during this process. Providing accurate and complete information is critical to avoid disputes.

Claim rejection

Several common mistakes can jeopardise a fire insurance claim. Delayed intimation to the insurer is one of the most frequent issues. Undertaking repairs or disposing of damaged items before the surveyor's inspection can also weaken the claim.



IN CONVERSATION



MANISH TIWARY

Chairman and managing director, Nestlé India

‘Instead of passing on cost to consumers, we improved efficiencies’

In an interaction with Dipak Mondal, chairman and managing director of Nestlé India Manish Tiwary discusses the company's strong Q4 performance, drivers of double-digit volume growth, rural expansion, advertising push, cost pressures, and future strategy. He tells if the consumer proposition is strong, the financials follow. **Excerpts:**

FMCG companies have struggled to achieve double-digit volume growth in recent quarters. How has Nestlé managed to do so?

There are two key aspects. First, market momentum played a role, especially with GST-related tax relief last year, which benefited all players. What stood out for us was execution. Our team managed the GST transition smoothly without disruptions, and even during periods when others reported channel stocking issues, we continued to post strong growth. Execution discipline compounds results.

Second, we have remained consumer-focused. In times of cost pressure—whether due to West Asia or raw material inflation—companies often take price hikes as the default route. We instead focus on improving internal efficiencies before passing on costs. If the consumer proposition is strong, the financials follow.

Your recent growth appears largely volume-driven. What is driving this momentum?

Growth has indeed been largely volume-led—around 17-18% in the December quarter and 23% in Q4. A big factor is sustained investment in brands. We increased advertising spend significantly, even when it temporarily softened EBITDA margins.

We believe brands need continuous investment—like feeding a baby. In Q4, despite a 52% rise in advertising spend and cost pressures, EBITDA remained strong at 26%, one of the highest in a decade. This shows the strength of the volume growth flywheel.

Will the GST-driven demand boost sustain going forward?

The benefit will last until base effects normalise. Lower prices drove higher consumption initially. Even after the base normalises, continued consumption depends on consumer preference.

However, external factors like fuel prices or input cost pressures could affect consumer spending. Ultimately, it depends on how much disposable income the consumer retains.

Can you elaborate on your rural expansion?

Rural contributes around 22-27% to our sales, but over 50% of our consumers are based there. We have significantly expanded distribution—from 25,000 to 45,000 points in a year—and now cover around 220,000 villages.

Earlier, distribution networks were stretched. Now, by placing distributors closer to demand clusters, we ensure fresher stock and better service. Rural growth is currently running at about twice the company's overall growth rate.

What is driving the sharp increase in advertising spend – a 50% increase in FY26?

Innovation and communication are key. We've launched new products like spicy noodle variants, KitKat Pops, and ready-to-drink cold coffee. Consumers need to be informed about these innovations. We reinvest efficiency gains into brand building rather than just improving margins. About 60% of our advertising is now digital, which is effective in reaching both urban and rural consumers.

What are your capital expenditure plans?

We are investing to expand capacity, including new production lines for Maggi and Munch. Both brownfield (existing facilities) and greenfield (new plants) investments are underway, including a project in Odisha. Capacity expansion is necessary as demand continues to grow.

The GST rate reduction benefit will last until the base effects normalise. Lower prices drove the higher consumption initially. Even after the base normalises, the continued consumption depends on consumer preference

MONEY-WISE

INVESTING IN LARGE AND MID-CAP FUNDS



FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India.

He can be reached at

ceolotus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)



for Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) if the units are sold within the time period of 1 year from the date of purchase.

These funds which effectively invest in the top 250 listed companies in terms of market capitalization have the combined features of Large Cap and Mid Cap Funds which offers relatively better stability, balance of risk and potential for higher returns in the long term. The usual Benchmark used for Large and Mid Cap Funds is the Nifty Large-Mid-cap 250 Index.

The Indian markets have witnessed a time correction over 15-18 months and the pain has been prolonged by the war between Israel-US and Iran. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz as a result of this war has been a point of pain for not just adversaries but even other nations, including India which has non-adverse relations with all the three countries involved.

Being an importer of oil, every spike in crude oil prices has resulted into a weakening of the stock market indices. There is however latent hope among market participants that hostilities will cease sooner rather than later which could trigger a sharp market rebound. Historically market rebounds have started top-down i.e. from large caps onto mid-caps and then, small-caps. While there is no guarantee or reason to believe it may always be so, the odds point to it and if it is indeed so, large and mid-cap funds could be among the earliest categories to ride the rebound.

MONEY MATTERS

BUILDING WEALTH IN VOLATILE TIMES



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at

www.moneyminute.in)

VOLATILITY is a function of uncertainty. Financial markets do not like a phase in which predicting the future becomes difficult. It increases the

diversity of views within days and induces volatility. Decisions to buy or sell an asset and to manage portfolio risk become difficult. If you are a relatively new investor, you stop your regular systematic investments as you are not aware of the cyclical nature of the markets.

Companies in wealth management, such as mutual funds, are reporting a resilient trend among Indian investors in their latest quarterly analyst calls. Despite a recent sharp selloff in the Nifty 50, systematic investment plans continue to gather momentum in March 2026.

There is a lot of noise about systematic investment plans (SIPs). However, the average holding period is less than four years for two-thirds of the investors. That means most of you who invest in various asset classes through mutual funds withdraw the money quickly, depriving it of the chance to grow.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India conducted an investor survey in 2025 and published it earlier this year. The stock market regulator found that as awareness of financial products increases, penetration rises. More than half of the households in India are aware of mutual funds. However, only 6.8% of them actually invest. Awareness of the stock market is around 50%, but only 5.3% of households invest in equity shares. There is very little awareness of other financial assets such as corporate bonds, real estate investment trusts, Infrastructure Investment Trusts, and alternative investment funds.

There is a hesitation about execution despite relatively high awareness about mutual funds and stocks. There is a fear of loss.

Getting over fear

While investing directly in the stock market is meant for those willing to learn and dedicate time to research, analysis and reading, mutual funds are a simpler way to allocate investible money towards future financial goals.

An underlying factor is that there is no short-term solution to wealth creation. Many of you are aware, but a large segment of the Indian population is not. You need to give your money adequate time to grow. Investing in equities for four years or less does not cre-

ate wealth.

Charlie Munger, the prodigious partner of American investment legend Warren Buffett, said that the big money is never in buying or selling. It is in the waiting.

Patience is a significant virtue. Many pundits also argue that it is a risk-management tool.

When it comes to index fund, exchange-traded fund, or mutual fund investing, you are transferring the risk of market timing to the funds. You make money usually when you buy low and sell high. The decision to arrive at the right price for an asset requires you to be on top of the information cycle. You need to understand the difference between value and price. A share that trades at a high price need not be expensive due to a low free float or non-promoter holding. It could be priced high because the company makes money on a very low equity capital base. Similarly, a low share price does not mean the stock is cheap. Fund managers, who manage your mutual fund money, have access to the sophisticated data that you as an individual cannot access.

If you are confused about all of that, you need to engage a professional advisor. This person cannot be your relative. You need some dispassionate advice. Using artificial intelligence is a good starting point, but you cannot rely on it to buy or sell. Making an appropriate asset allocation and staying invested are the only ways to successful equity investing. Eventually, as Warren Buffett has said and proved time and again, the stock market is an efficient mechanism for transferring wealth from the impatient to the patient.



Air India board to focus on cost cutting

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AIR INDIA board is set to meet on May 7 to review cost-cutting measures, discuss on the selection of new CEO and related matters, sources aware of the development said.

Sources stated that the board, chaired by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai to deliberate on cost-cutting strategies, CEO succession plans, and financials for the financial year 2026, among other issues.

The Tata Group airline, expected to post losses exceeding ₹22,000 crore for FY26, faces challenges on numerous fronts. The losses have escalated to record levels due to frequent airspace closures in West Asia and a permanent closure in Pakistan since March last year, rising fuel expenses and the impact of rupee devaluation



Air India likely to post losses of over ₹22k cr for FY26

The Tata Group airline, expected to post losses exceeding ₹22,000 crore for FY26, faces challenges on numerous fronts. The losses have escalated to record levels due to frequent airspace closures in West Asia and a permanent closure in Pakistan since March last year

against the US dollar.

These challenges exacerbate the repercussions from the tragic Ahmedabad (Flight AI 171) crash on June 12, 2025, which resulted in 241 people on board and 19 people outside losing their lives.

Amid the ongoing challenges and turnaround strategy, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson announced his resignation. He will remain in the role until his successor is announced and in place. As per reports, Air India, in which

Singapore Airlines holds a 25.1% stake, is evaluating multiple candidates. As per industry sources, Vinod Kannan, an executive at Singapore Airlines and Nipun Aggarwal, an insider at Air India, have emerged as the primary contenders for the top position.

As part of efforts to cut costs amid rising jet fuel prices, the airline is considering unbundling meals from tickets and making lounge access optional for business class passengers. However, sources indicated that these measures are still under consideration and no final decision has been taken.

On May 1, Wilson said the pressures facing the airline, stating that a massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer flying routes, has caused many of our international flights to become unprofitable to operate.

ONGC, CSIR-NCL to launch pilot for testing DME as LPG alternative

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

OIL and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), along with CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), is set to launch an industrial pilot project to produce dimethyl ether (DME) in Pune as an alternative to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), primarily for industrial use, according to sources familiar with the development.

As per the officials aware of the matter, the pilot project is expected to run for three years. The first year is primarily dedicated for setting up the plant for the pilot. "The pilot will run for three years, first year will be for setting up the plant. The operation cost will be taken care by ONGC. The aim is to have 2.5 tonne capacity for the industrial pilot," said the



The pilot will run for three years, first year will be for setting up the plant. The operation cost will be taken care by ONGC

— Source

source. The research will be done by the NCL Pune team.

The pilot project will also test the commercial viability of DME production and its appli-

cation as a substitute for LPG in industrial heating and processing. Based on the success of the project, further decisions will be taken regarding industrial deployment of the same. Scientists at CSIR-NCL have created a technology to manufacture DME that can be used as a clean-burning fuel. The development comes amid ongoing global energy uncertainties and rising fuel costs, underscoring the importance of strengthening domestic energy capabilities.

At a time when there is a growing concern over the LPG supply and a fear of energy crisis due to the West Asia tension, India is exploring all possible measures to diversify their source countries for the energy import, primarily LPG and also to enhance the domestic production of the same.



India's Manas Dhamne fell short of a title finish in his maiden ATP Challenger singles final, going down to Belgium's Buvaysar Gadamauri in a closely-fought summit clash in Shymkent on Sunday. The 18-year-old Dhamne put up a spirited fight before losing 6-7 (8), 4-6 in a contest that lasted over two hours and depended on fine margins.

Mittal group, Poonawalla acquire Rajasthan Royals for ₹15.6k crore

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai/ New Delhi

STEEL baron Lakshmi Mittal and his son, Aditya Mittal, have acquired a 75 per cent stake in Rajasthan Royals. Vaccine giant, Adar Poonawalla, who had earlier stated his intention of purchasing Royal Challengers Bengaluru, will hold 18 per cent in Royals. The remaining 7 per cent will be held by approved existing investors including Manoj Badale. The total value of the deal is about ₹15660 cr (\$1.65bn). A US-based consorti-

um, led by Kal Somani, a one-time Royals investor, had won the right to buy Royals for just north of \$1.6bn in March but that fell through over the last week.

In a joint statement titled 'The Mittal Family acquires The Rajasthan Royals In Partnership with Adar Poonawalla', it said "the Mittal Family will own approximately 75% of Rajasthan Royals, with Adar Poonawalla holding approximately 18%. The remaining approximately 7% will be held by

approved existing investors, including Manoj Badale."

"The transaction consideration is approximately US\$1.65 billion and represents the enterprise value of Rajasthan Royals' men's franchise, Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals. Completion is subject to customary closing conditions, including approvals from the BCCI, the CCI, the IPL Governing Council and other applicable regulatory authorities, and

is expected to occur in Q3 2026." The new board at the Royals will include Lakshmi Mittal, Aditya Mittal, Vanisha Mittal-Bhatia, Poonawalla and Badale.

In the statement, Lakshmi Mittal gave his reasons for bidding and picking the franchise. "I love cricket and my family is from Rajasthan, so there is no IPL team that I would rather be part of than the Rajasthan Royals. I first played cricket as a school-

boy, and since then I have been an avid fan of the sport. Many great players have worn the Rajasthan Royals shirts, including Indian icons of the sport who have been an inspiration for the younger talent. I look forward to being part of this great team, and cannot wait to join all the fans pitch-side to cheer on our future success."

Poonawalla, meanwhile, said, "I am delighted to partner with Aditya Mittal on this investment. Rajasthan Royals is a premier IPL franchise with a

strong legacy, and I look forward to supporting its continued growth and long-term success."

Aditya aims to take forward legacy of grooming youngsters

Royals, who haven't won a title since the inaugural season in 2008, have had a penchant for developing young Indian players into all-format players. Over the last few years, the likes of Dhruv Jurel and Yashasvi Jaiswal have emerged from their stable. It looks likely that

Vaishav Sooryavanshi will join them later this year. And Aditya Mittal said they will continue this legacy. "The Royals is well known for developing talent — that resonates deeply with me, and we are determined that legacy will continue, harnessing the best of talent in the world for future success. I want to thank everyone who has helped build the Rajasthan Royals into a global sporting institution - the players, coaches, leadership team, and above all the fans."

KOLKATA STAY ALIVE, BUT TOP-ORDER ISSUE REMAIN

Rahane's batting style and pace a concern for the 2024 IPL winners

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

ON Sunday afternoon, Kolkata Knight Riders put an end to the five-match winning run of Sunrisers Hyderabad as they moved to seven points. While Anagrish Raghuvanshi was the star of the show, with 59 from 47 balls, skipper Ajinkya Rahane chipped in too, scoring 43 runs from 36 balls.

Though KKR won and all is well in the camp, Rahane has once again found himself in a tricky place. After earning the reputation for his calm demeanour with the bat, question marks over his intent in this day and age of T20 cricket have been regular. And this season, it seemed like the questions had got to him too. Earlier in the season, Rahane took a jibe in a press conference about people who write about his strike rate.

While Rahane cannot be grouped with the likes Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Priyansh Arya and the rest, he claimed that he has a good IPL strike rate over the years. It did not help that his team plummeted with the opening pair changing between him, Tim Seifert and Finn Allen. Soon, Sunil Narine was given the opener's slot, adding to the instability.

At the core of it all is Rahane's place in the top-order and XI. The Mumbai player came into IPL 2025 on the back of a blistering Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in 2024, finishing as the highest-run getter with 469 runs at a strike rate of 164.56. Rahane may have taken confidence into IPL 2026 on the back of a creditable performance in the domestic T20 league, scoring 391 runs with a strike rate of 161.57.

However, he has not enjoyed similar returns in the IPL. This season, he has struck at 131.41. Only Ruturaj Gaikwad of the Chennai Super Kings (125.64) has struck lower than



RAHANE SINCE 2023

Phase	Inn	Runs	AVG	SR
PP (0-6 ovs)	38	619	56.3	159.5
Middle (7-16 ovs)	32	511	17.0	125.2
Death (16- 20 ovs)	1	34	-	340

Rahane among openers. With the powerplay phase mostly having openers going hammer and tongs, Rahane's numbers in that phase may look good but does not hold up to his comments of him having the 'best

STANDINGS TILL THE GAME BETWEEN KKR AND SRH ON THURSDAY					
Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
PBKS	9	6	2	13	0.85
RCB	9	6	3	12	1.4
SRH	10	6	4	12	0.64
RR	10	6	4	12	0.51
GT	10	6	4	12	-0.15
CSK	9	4	5	8	0.01
DC	9	4	5	8	-0.89
KKR	9	3	5	7	-0.53
MI	9	2	7	4	-0.80
LSG	8	2	6	4	-1.10

strike-rate.' Since IPL 2023, the skipper has scored 619 runs in the powerplay phase of 38 innings, averaging 56.3. His strike rate in this phase is at 159.5. Sooryavanshi tops the list with 218.70. His strike rate in middle-overs and death only drop further. In the reverse fixture of the match against SRH - where Hyderabad won by 65 runs - Rahane had a brief yet rare outburst over this aspect of his game. "The amount of success which I got, I guess they are jealous of me. I am not too worried. Just one bad inning. My intent was there. Sometimes as a batter, you don't get that rhythm, you don't get that flow," he said.

Ever since that comment, Rahane has gone on to strike higher than 150 only once (170.8). In KKR's defeat to Lucknow Super Giants, the skipper scored 41 off 24 balls. KKR's campaign is still not over. If they win the remaining five games, they could comfortably go into the play-offs. But for that to happen, they will have to take a hard look at their captain and what he does with the bat.

Brief scores: SRH 165 in 19 ovs (Head 61, Kishan 42; Chakravarthy 3/36) **lost** to KKR 169/3 in 18.2 ovs (Raghuvanshi 59, Rahane 43; Sakib 1/17) hane 43; Sakib 1/17).

EXPRESS READ

Bruzon to leave EBFC at end of season

KOLKATA: Oscar Bruzon on Sunday announced that he will step down as the head coach of East Bengal at the end of the current Indian Super League season, citing the absence of long-term planning and clarity over the club's future. East Bengal remain firmly in contention for their maiden ISL title.

Golfer Diksha in hunt for title in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS: Indian golfer Diksha Dagar played a solid bogey-free 3-under 69 to move into title contention at the MCB Ladies Classic - Mauritius on the Ladies European Tour. Diksha shot 68 in the first round and moved to 7-under for two rounds. She is Tied-fourth and just two behind the co-leaders, Denmark's Smilla Tarning.

Baranica improves own women's pole-vault NR

BHUBANESWAR: Baranica Elangovan improved upon her five-week-old own national record during the inaugural Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition on Sunday. Baranica cleared 4.23m to better her own NR of 4.22m set at the inaugural edition of National Indoor Championships.

Unforgettable service for Hariharan

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

THE last few days have been dream-like for Hariharan Amsakarunan. One of the new faces in the men's badminton team, the doubles specialist, along with partner MR Arjun, helped India capture a bronze medal in the Thomas Cup at Horsens, Denmark.

For someone who grew up in Thanjavur, he has made notable strides. The 22-year-old is naturally stoked with the experience. "I'm feeling very happy because this was my first time. A lot of experienced players are there and I learnt a great deal. The fact that I got a medal in my first appearance makes it special," Hariharan told this daily from Horsens. Hariharan and singles specialist Ayush Shetty were representing the team for the first time. Along with veterans like HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth, the team was looking to emulate their 2022 run, where they had captured a historic gold. But they were stopped in their tracks by France in the semifinals on Saturday, but it was nevertheless yet another



Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun during the Thomas Cup | BADMINTON PHOTO

noteworthy campaign for the team. Hariharan and Arjun, who train at the Gopichand Academy, could not feature in the knockout stages but they had played their part in the group stages with two wins and a loss in three matches. The youngster was just thrilled to be part of the group. "Badminton is generally an individual sport. We only play as a team once or twice (a year). So this team coordination is highly important. I got to learn a great deal from the experienced players, Prannoy

and Srikanth anna (elder brother)."

Hariharan said the senior players had helped him calm his nerves during his first-ever appearance. He also said Prannoy was one of the leaders, who was really vocal during the course of the event. Since forging a partnership with Arjun last year, Hariharan is still in the process of learning at the moment at the elite level. He felt consistency is the main currency for success. "Playing at the Super 750 and Super 1000 level, there is a clear gap

South Korea triumph

World No 1 An Se-young helped South Korea women beat powerhouses China 3-1 in the Uber Cup final on Sunday. World No 1 An maintained her dominance over Wang Zhi Yi, beating her 21-10, 21-13 in the first match as Korea went on to complete the victory in the fourth match. This was South Korea's third gold medal in the premier competition.

Holder & Rabada rattle Kings before Sudharsan, Washington shine for GT

AGENCIES @ Ahmedabad

SAI SUDHARSAN'S cool-headed 57 alongside the storm-kicked up by pacers Mohammed Siraj, Jason Holder and Kagiso Rabada carried Gujarat Titans to a last over four-wicket victory over Punjab Kings in their IPL match here on Sunday.

On a slightly slow pitch, the Titans needed a level-headed chase of 164, and Sudharsan did precisely during his 41-ball knock. A similar innings from debutant Suryansh Shedge's energetic 57 had helped PBKS to post 163 for nine despite Siraj (2/28) and Holder (4/24) reducing them to 47 for five in 8.4 overs. But it was Sudharsan's turn to stand on the winners' podium in the battle of half-centurions on the night. The result meant that GT stayed at five in the table but their points tally swelled to 12, while PBKS also maintained their top spot with 13 points for now.

After skipper Shubman Gill fell early to Arshdeep Singh, Sudharsan took control of the chase and added 53 runs for the second wicket with Jos Buttler. Buttler (25) was the more dominant partner, dismissing Marco Jansen and Xavier Bartlett for a six each, the second one being an audacious scoop over the wicketkeeper.

But the England batter could not clear the infield off Vyshak Vijayakumar, giving a catch to



Kagiso Rabada celebrates wicket of Prabhsimran Singh with teammates | PTI

Shreyas Iyer. But Sudharsan continued undeterred and reached his third fifty of this IPL season off 37 balls. The left-hander celebrated that with a couple of fours off Yuzvendra Chahal but could not impart distance to a pull off Vysakh, getting caught on the ropes by Bartlett.

The dismissal of Rahul Tewatia added some more drama to the close contest, with GT needing 11 runs off the final over. But Washington Sundar (40 n.o) stayed long enough to finish the match with a scooped six off Marcus Stoinis.

Earlier, Shedge made a well-made fifty but GT could not progress beyond 163 for nine. But even that total looked distant once the Gujarat pacers found their wares early in the innings. **Brief scores:** PBKS 162/9 in 20 ovs (Shedge 57, Holder 4/24) **lost** to GT 167/6 in 19.5 ovs (Sai Sudharsan 57, Washington 40 n.o; Arshdeep 2/24).

DO OR DIE TIE FOR MI

Losing against Lucknow Super Giants on Monday could be curtains for Mumbai Indians. A look...

Eyes on Rohit

In the five games Rohit Sharma has missed, MI have won only one. On Sunday, despite the travel the former captain trained at Wankhede and will be interesting to see if he comes back.

LSG need six on trot

For Lucknow to get out from under, they need a six-win run to be able to have a shot at play-offs. Every match from here is a knockout. The only team to do so in recent past was RCB in 2024.

MI vs LSG, Wankhede, 7.30 PM, LIVE on Star Sports and JioHotstar

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

United beat Liverpool to seal Champions League qualification

AFP

MANCHESTER United secured Champions League football next season as Kobbie Mainoo's strike earned a thrilling 3-2 victory over old rivals Liverpool on Sunday.

United were 2-0 up inside 15 minutes through Matheus Cunha and Benjamin Sesko, but imploded after the break to allow Arne Slot's men to level with goals from Dominik Szoboszlai and Cody Gakpo before Mainoo secured the win.

A return to Europe's elite

competition after a two-year absence and another big game win furthers Michael Carrick's case to continue as United boss next season. Mainoo has embodied the upturn in United's fortunes since Carrick took charge in January. Overlooked by Ruben Amorim, the England midfielder earned a new five-year contract this week and celebrated in style with a cool finish from the edge of the box to edge a wild encounter. Third-placed United open up a six-point lead over Liverpool and are guaranteed to finish in the top five.



Matheus Cunha celebrates with his teammates on Sunday | AP

Despite an 11th league defeat of the season, Liverpool likely need only three points from their three remaining games to also secure a place in the Champions League. Slot's side arrived at Old Trafford depleted without the forward trio of Mohamed Salah, Hugo Ekitike and Alexander Isak through injury. United sensed blood and were well worthy of their early two-goal lead. Fernandes was inches away from a third when he blasted Bryan Mbeumo's cross wide. But the warning signs of what was to come in the second half

for United were also there before the break. Gakpo curled wide on one of the many occasions Liverpool were able to pierce the heart of the Red Devils' midfield.

Barca on the brink

Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres took Barcelona to the brink of the La Liga title with late goals to earn them a 2-1 win at Osasuna on Saturday. Elsewhere, Villarreal guaranteed themselves a Champions League qualification spot with a 5-1 romp over Levante.



Italian Jannik Sinner poses with the title on Sunday | AFP

Fund Your Future



From government schemes to private grants, here are scholarships open to Indian students, what they cover, and how to decide which ones are worth your time.

National Overseas Scholarship



Study abroad with full funding: Covers Master's and PhD programmes abroad for students from SC, DNT, and other marginalised communities. It funds tuition, living costs, travel, and more, often exceeding ₹1 crore in total value. Open until June 2, 2026, it remains India's most comprehensive government-backed route to global higher education.

PM-YASASVI Scholarship Scheme



Funding for school to college study: Supports OBC, EBC, and DNT students across school and undergraduate levels. Awards range from ₹75,000 to ₹1.25 lakh annually, with full fee and hostel coverage for select college programmes. Applications are expected to open in June 2026 through the National Scholarship Portal.

IET India Scholarship Award



Recognising future engineering leaders: Open to undergraduate engineering students, this award combines financial support with national recognition. The top prize is ₹6 lakh, with multiple regional awards. Applications close on June 15, 2026. Selection involves tests, presentations, and a final jury, making it one of India's most competitive engineering scholarships.

UGC PG Scholarship Scheme

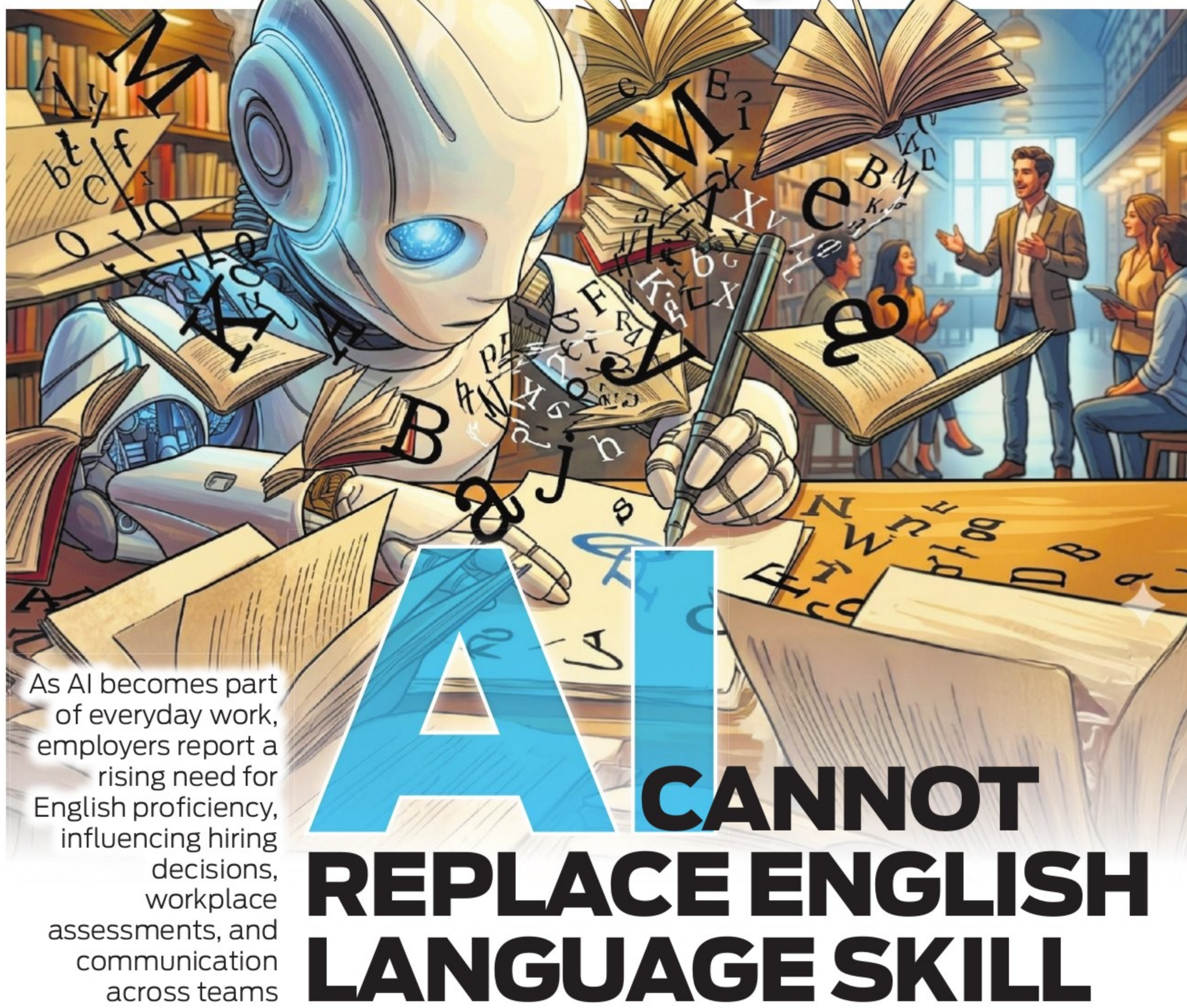


Monthly support for Master's students: Provides ₹15,000 per month for up to two years to students pursuing their first postgraduate degree in recognised institutions. With 10,000 slots annually, it helps offset living and study costs. Applications typically open in June via the National Scholarship Portal.

PM Special Scholarship Scheme



Support for J&K and Ladakh students: Designed for students from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, this scheme funds study outside the region. It covers tuition up to ₹3 lakh and provides a ₹1 lakh annual maintenance allowance. Applications are expected to open in May 2026, with centralised counselling required.



As AI becomes part of everyday work, employers report a rising need for English proficiency, influencing hiring decisions, workplace assessments, and communication across teams

ANGELA MARY THOMAS

THE modern workplace is being reshaped by three forces at once: artificial intelligence (AI), globalisation, and digital transformation. At the centre of this is AI, positioned as the greatest force in workplace transformation. Yet the promise of AI as an equaliser — a tool that could bridge communication gaps, draft emails, and summarise reports — has not played out as advertised. According to a new survey of human resources (HR) decision makers across 17 countries, AI adoption appears to be doing the opposite: raising the need for English proficiency, particularly in the workplace.

As reported in the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) Global English Skills Report by Educational Testing Service (ETS), 81% of employers globally say that integrating AI tools increases the need for English proficiency among workers. In India, this figure reaches 87%. "In the workplace, communication is what enables alignment, whether it's explaining ideas,

collaborating across teams, or making decisions. AI can support the process, but it cannot replace the need for context, judgment, and clarity. That's where human communication continues to create value," says Ajay Pratap Singh, Regional Director (South Asia), ETS.

Although communication ability in job descriptions was listed under "soft skills" for years, 97% of employers in India say that English proficiency is more important today than it was five years ago, while 84% believe a lack of it places candidates at a competitive disadvantage. Employers remain optimistic about AI's potential but say it cannot compensate for poor communication skills. Workers still need clear language skills to frame inputs, interpret outputs, and apply them effectively. Strong English proficiency also prepares employees for emerging tools and future innovations, allowing them to stay relevant as technology and roles evolve.

The report also highlights the role of government policy. Countries where secondary education mandates minimum



English proficiency report stronger business outcomes, with employers reporting erosion of customer trust at rates 13 percentage points lower, and reduced workforce productivity 12 points lower. However, only 23% of organisations currently operate in markets where such mandates exist, while 53% expect policies promoting English fluency in secondary education to be introduced within the next five years.

The ability to communicate clearly is becoming one of the most consequential and non-negotiable skills an employee can bring through the door.

Globally and in India, organisations using standardised

English assessments report better collaboration, greater growth and improved efficiency. In India, 98% of HR leaders believe organisations would operate more efficiently if English assessments were used during the hiring process; communication is increasingly being viewed as a measurable business capability.

"Communication in today's work environment is multidimensional," said Sathish Pari, soft skills and English language trainer. "It goes beyond grammar or vocabulary to include context and the ability to respond effectively. Not all assessment approaches are designed to capture this complexity."

"AI can act as a language crutch by assisting with drafting emails and resumes, but candidates may not fully grasp what is generated, leading to miscommunication. With reported cases of AI hallucination, a lack of language proficiency makes it harder to identify inaccuracies. In India, where English is not the first language, an AI-induced fatigue in learning will lead to reduced productivity and collaboration," added Satish.

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

A global survey of HR decision makers by ETS shows English proficiency shaping hiring, assessments, and productivity, as organisations adapt to AI tools, global collaboration, and evolving workplace communication demands.

AI CAN'T COVER ALL SKILLS



Across speaking, listening, reading, and writing,

most employers say AI cannot fully compensate for weak English. The report puts the gap at 62% for speaking, 61% for listening, 60% for reading, and 59% for writing, showing that AI support still depends on the worker's own language ability.

ENGLISH ENTERS HIRING FILTERS



English proficiency is already part of candidate screening.

Globally, 91% of employers seek university graduates with English skills, and 89% say English assessment scores taken during university are valuable when screening job candidates. This suggests language ability may become part of employability signalling before work begins.

ASSESSMENTS HIT BARRIERS



Even as companies look to measure English skills,

90% of HR decision makers report at least one barrier to adopting assessment tools. The top obstacles include time constraints, scaling across the organisation, and finding a trusted provider, each cited by 36% of respondents. Integration issues follow at 32%.

BLOCK BY BLOCK

CHAIN OF THOUGHT

What does it take to analyse cryptocurrencies for a living? Here's what crypto research analysts actually do, and how to enter the field

ARYA VIDYA

A crypto research analyst studies the cryptocurrency ecosystem, which includes digital assets and blockchain-based platforms, to understand how projects operate, where capital is flowing, and the factors that influence market behaviour. The work involves tracking industry news, analysing whitepapers, and compiling data from multiple sources to build a clearer picture of emerging trends.

Muhammed Zaihan CV, an analyst from Kozhikode, says, "This role caught my interest because I had been following crypto for a while. I was sceptical at first because it's a very young industry. But as I've dived deeper, I've grown more confident about where it is heading." These roles are typically employed within the crypto and blockchain industry, although financial companies also hire for them. There is no single educational route into this field. Individuals from diverse backgrounds enter the role, although basic data analysis skills and a working understanding of cryptocurrencies can improve one's

read right

chances of securing a position. While formal courses in the space are becoming more common, most companies expect only a basic understanding, along with familiarity with standard data analysis tools, for entry-level roles.

Describing a typical day, Zaihan says, "I start by analysing funds that crypto companies have registered with the US financial regulator, the SEC. My daily tasks also include tracking the latest fundraises in the industry and identifying new startups bringing fresh innovations." The SEC is the US equivalent of India's SEBI. Much of the research work carried out in India is linked to firms or clients based in the United States. The starting salary typically ranges from ₹4-6 LPA and can rise to ₹12 LPA or more with experience. With the rapid advancement of AI, the role, like many research-driven jobs, faces some uncertainty.

However, the overall industry outlook remains positive, with scope for growth for those who continue to build skills.



THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING



May 7, 1849

India's first girls' school opens doors in Calcutta

177 years ago, Bethune School was founded in Calcutta as India's first secular school for girls, opening with 21 students. It challenged barriers to women's formal education. Its legacy lives in girls' access to higher studies, professional degrees, and careers once kept out of reach in India today.



May 11, 1979

First spreadsheet demonstrated

47 years ago, VisiCalc was publicly demonstrated as the first electronic spreadsheet. It turned table-based calculations into a computer function and changed how data was handled. Its legacy runs through Excel, classrooms, finance, research, and almost every data-driven workplace today worldwide.



May 8, 1956

Soil conservation centre set up for Indian farms

70 years ago, India set up a research centre for soil and water conservation under the Ministry of Agriculture. It developed scientific methods to protect land and water in farming regions. Its work still informs agriculture, sustainability studies, resource planning, and environmental careers.



May 11, 1998

India tests nuclear capability in Pokhran

28 years ago, India conducted underground nuclear tests at Pokhran, demonstrating advanced nuclear capability. The programme expanded research, infrastructure, and technical training. It continues to influence studies and careers in physics, engineering, nuclear energy, and strategic research in India.



May 9, 2024

ISRO tests 3D-printed engine for rockets

2 years ago, ISRO hot-fired a 3D-printed PSLV engine, reducing 14 parts into a single unit. The test showed how additive manufacturing can cut cost, weight, and production time in space systems. It opens paths in aerospace, design engineering, materials science, and advanced manufacturing in India.

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WHERE HISTORY HANGS OUT

Panchavati, Kaash, General Items, Sabha and more – restored colonial buildings are increasingly finding use as cultural and food spaces

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

WHILE sleek glass doors and multi-storey buildings may be the norm in Bengaluru today, a new crop of arts, culture and food ventures are making a home for themselves within age-old buildings that have weathered famine, war and the effects of time – from the magnetism of Sabha, the cosy nook of the General Items design gallery or the cool space of Cinnamon. “What we’re seeing is a revival of older spaces, updated with contemporary facilities. With many heritage buildings replaced by vertical structures, few remaining historic spaces are now being appreciated deeply,” notes Sridhar Poddar, whose Kaash art gallery, Berlie Street, opened in 2022, in an over 150-year-old building.

But why bother going to expensive and time-consuming lengths to revive a space instead of building a new one? For some, like Bhrumini Reddy’s family, the owners of Bungalow 157, Domlur, it is a labour of love. “Generations of the family have lived here, so we wanted to keep that sentiment alive,” she explains. The venue hosts everything from art exhibitions and healing sessions to birthday parties. Panchavati, the Nobel Laureate CV Raman’s former residence in Malleswar-

am, is another such place, having sporadically hosted arts, science or education-related events from 2024 and currently undergoing renovation. “It’s been a family home to my parents, uncles, aunts, myself, at different points, but we also really wanted it to be something for the public. We’ve had exhibitions related to Raman Research Institute and even been one of the main venues for BLR Habba,” says Vivek Radhakrishnan, CV Raman’s grandson, adding that this is especially important given Panchavati’s historical importance.

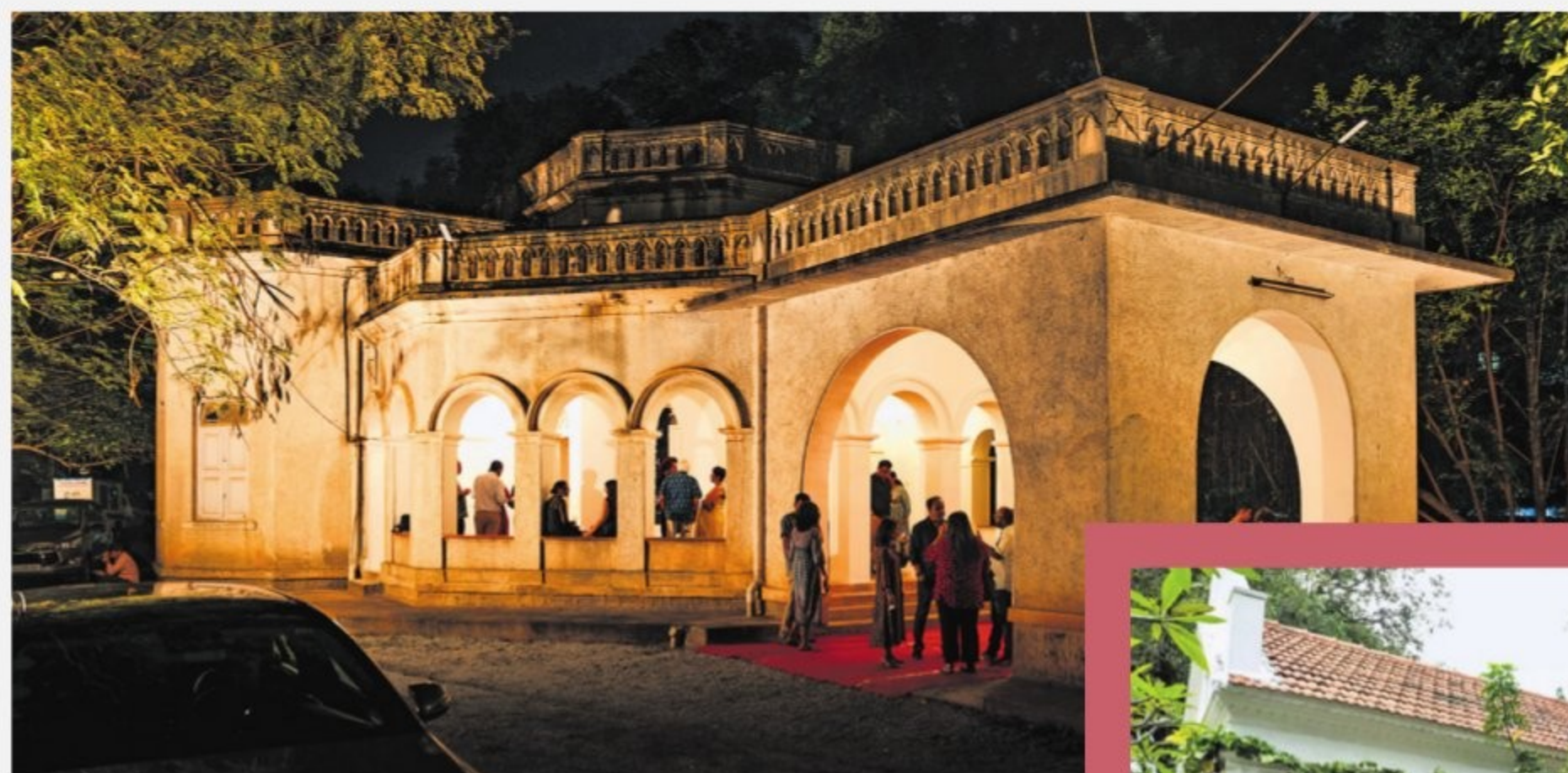


In the '90s or 2000s, the house had to be 'stitched' together by running metal cables through it. We're at the initial stages of restoration now, and with old buildings, it's often one surprise after another

- Vivek Radhakrishnan, CV Raman's grandson

The aesthetic appeal often gets attention online, but while this draws people in, the stories keep people coming back, explains Aarush Jhunjhunwala, owner of Cafe Stone, located in Cinnamon’s premises. “When people come here, I get to tell them about how it has transitioned from an orphanage built during the famine to a cafe in the middle of the city – that’s something completely unique to us.”

Conservation architect & co-founder of EZHA Heritage Swathy V Subramanian, explains these as examples of ‘adaptive reuse’ that India has seen most in palaces turned star hotels. “In Bengaluru, we see this example in a few older venues too, like Samsung Opera House and Hard Rock Cafe – they retain the historic elements like walls, windows,



PANCHAVATI

Built in the early 1900s, Panchavati was the home of Nobel Laureate CV Raman. It is now being restored to become a venue for arts, science and cultural events



Mangalore tile roofing, flooring but put it to a new use.”

Often, the venue’s offerings are closely tied to the architecture, as Poddar notes, “Since we work with indigenous crafts, which are forms of heritage, it felt important that the architecture reflect that ethos – breathing space, proportion, and scale that feel ideal for a gallery.” Jhunjhunwala adds that the cafe has found creative inspiration from the space, saying, “It dictates a lot of the menu choices. Our guests resonate with the space having a Goa or Pondicherry-

like vibe which Bengaluru was like back in the day.”

Having been built for surviving hot summers without tech, they have practical benefits too. “Indoor temperature is always low because of lime plastered walls, high ceilings, sloping roofs and terracotta tiles. You’ll never need an AC,” says Subramanian.

Trouble in Paradise

All this does not mean that there are no aches and cracks involved. Kaash, being on sunken land beside the Indian Christian Cemetery, is prone

to monsoon flooding. Radhakrishnan adds that at Panchavati, restorations and additions like an amphitheatre have been made across dec-

ades, but an intensive operation to open it to the public brings new challenges. “In the '90s or 2000s, the house had to be 'stitched' together by run-



BUNGALOW 157

A 110-year-old ancestral home, this is now a venue for wellness, music, birthday events and more



KAASH

Located on Berlie Street next to the Indian Christian Cemetery, Kaash is housed in a bungalow which is over 150 years old



CAFE STONE, CINNAMON

This cafe was once an orphanage built by philanthropist Rai Bahadur Arcot Narrainswamy Mudaliar in the late 1800s

ning metal cables through it



We’re at the initial stages of restoration now, and with old buildings, it’s often one surprise after another. When it is completed in 2027-28, though, it will be one of the main science and cultural spaces in North Bengaluru.”

Despite it all, though, none would trade their space for another. As Jhunjhunwala puts it, “We have strange problems that not many other restaurants face, but these are small problems we work around. It’s a part of our process now.”

The key to keeping a heritage venue thriving for another century is to treat it like a living, breathing body, shares Subramanian, “Buildings are like bodies, if you have a problem, you must diagnose it immediately, else a leakage will affect the rafters, causing more leakage, destroy the flooring and damage the windows. If carefully maintained, they can survive another 100 to 150 years.”

CITY READ

School launches a student-led podcast on Spotify & YouTube

TRIO World Academy, Sahakar Nagar, has launched Trio Tales, a student-led podcast, on April 27, with episodes rolling out through 2026 on Spotify and YouTube. The show is conceptualised, researched, curated, hosted and produced entirely by students, featuring conversations with experts across fields. It focuses on real-world topics, from global education opportunities to mental health and student wellbeing in a digital age. School leadership, including Head of School Brian Irving and Managing Director Naveen KM, highlighted the initiative as a reflection of student confidence and creativity, noting that it enables meaningful, high-quality conversations while giving students a platform to engage with ideas independently. The management also points to the value of such initiatives in helping students develop new skills and stay engaged, positioning the podcast as part of a broader approach to experiential learning.



CELEB TAKEOVER

A glamorous night of music and style unfolded as actor-fashionista Urfi Javed took the spotlight with an appearance at Gsper Club, Koramangala



SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

ADITI PANDYA didn’t arrive at the 130th Boston Marathon chasing a vague goal. The city-based runner finished in 3.22.35, emerging as the fastest Indian woman in the race, a mark she had built her training regimen around. “I ended up running about 500m extra because the course was a little longer. But that happens sometimes with GPX (GPS Exchange format) files,” she says.

Meeting the qualifying standard was only one part of the process – final entry was determined by a global cut-off. A stronger performance in Delhi has already secured her spot at Boston. “During those 13 weeks of preparation, I covered close to 1,400km. In peak weeks, I was running up to 200km. The idea was to peak at the right time, not before the race,” says the entrepreneur-nutritionist.

Race day tested her mentally as much as physically. “I was questioning things right from the start because this was my first World Major. But I knew I had to trust my training and finish,” she recalls. The cold conditions and the sheer scale of the event heightened pressure, but the atmosphere kept her going. “There’s not a single moment where I felt alone. The crowd was constantly cheering, and there was a sea of runners around me. It’s an electrifying experience,” Pandya shares. Crossing the finish line, she says, felt overwhelming. “It felt surreal. It’s not a straightforward journey. There are too many curves for you to navigate. You have to play through them and keep going,” she reminisces.

Bring up beginners, and she gets straight into the basics, stating, “You need to enjoy the sport first. Start small with a run-walk jog and build consistency. Then slowly add structure and aim bigger.”

Two of the top Indian women who clocked record timings at the demanding course of The Boston Marathon recall their experiences



Fuel for the sole

Aditi Pandya

Rajalakshmi Swaminathan

RUNWAY OF DREAMS

At the Boston Marathon this year, Rajalakshmi Swaminathan clocked 3.30.23, finishing among the top Indian women. At the finish, the moment caught up with her and the result carried added meaning. “I crossed the finish line full of smiles, and within a minute, I broke down. The sheer significance just hit me. This race outcome is almost 15 minutes less than the BQ (Boston Qualifying) for my age category, so I’m elated having qualified for Boston in Boston,” the 45-year-old architect, who took to running at 33, says.

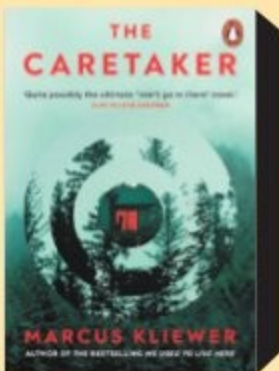
Her journey into running began with 10Ks and half marathons at a time when fewer women were part of the sport. Around 2020-21, when her health dipped, she turned to running to regain her fitness. “I followed a structured approach, began strength training and fixed my nutrition. This journey has been about incremental improvement, small wins and consistency that has compounded over several years,” she shares. Whereas the Boston course brought its own set of hurdles, she explains, “It has some hilly portions that come between 24k and 32k. The temperatures were less than 10 degrees, but felt much colder because of the wind.”

In the weeks leading up to Boston, her preparations were interrupted by a hip injury, along with neck and shoulder pain linked to a cervical disc bulge. The setbacks forced her to focus more on managing pain. On race day, she adjusted her approach, holding back on the climbs and staying controlled through the later stages. However, staying mentally steady was key. “I refused to be a victim of the circumstance and tried to do justice to every factor that got me there,” she adds.

Support at home played a key role, too. “From cooperating with the dietary needs at home to the hours away during runs every morning, to ensuring I get enough sleep, my family has been extremely supportive,” she concludes.

BOOK

NOOK



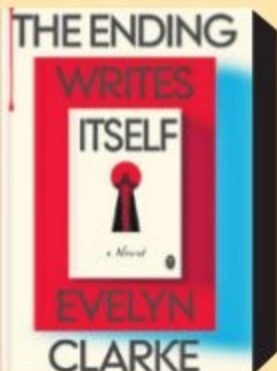
The Caretaker
By Marcus Kliewer
From Marcus Kliewer comes a supernatural horror about a young woman who accepts a caretaking job only to discover the position has really dangerous consequences.



Yesteryear
By Caro Claire Burke
A traditional American woman who shares her pioneer lifestyle of raw milk and farm-fresh eggs with millions of social media followers suddenly awakens cold, filthy and terrified in the brutal reality of 1805.



The Book Witch
By Meg Shaffer
Rainy March, a magical book witch, travels inside novels to protect their stories – but breaking the rules risks everything. When her grandfather vanishes, she teams up with a forbidden fictional detective, uncovering secrets across classic literary worlds and her own past.



The Ending Writes Itself
By Evelyn Clarke
A gripping locked-room mystery, this novel follows six struggling writers invited to a remote island to complete a dead author's final book, where ambition, deception and deadly secrets collide over just seventy-two high-stakes, intense hours.



HAMSA GEETHE

A melodious atmosphere unfolded at an event by Kadu Malleswara Galeyara Balaga as folk singers from the Journey Theatre Group took over the stage to perform songs by late composer BV Karanth | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

THENGA PAAL SADAM

INGREDIENTS

- **Basmati rice:** 1 cup
- **Water:** 3/4 cup
- **Tomato:** 1, medium size
- **Garam masala:** 1/2 tsp
- **Green chilli:** 4
- **Thick coconut mylk:** 3/4 cup
- **Onion:** 1, medium sized
- **Garlic:** 2-3 cloves, crushed
- **Salt:** 1/2 spoon
- **Whole spices**

METHOD

- In a pressure cooker, add two teaspoons of oil, whole spices and cashew. Sauté it.
- Add onion and crushed garlic. Sauté till onion turns light pink, then add tomato and garam masala. Mix well.
- Add coconut mylk. Allow it to boil for a minute. Then, add soaked basmati rice and water.
- Pressure cook for three whistles. Garnish with pudina and roasted cashews,



Contributed by **Archana Kiran**, Secunderabad

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Scented Memories

Craft your signature scent in this guided session exploring the art of blending fragrances. From floral and fruity to woody and musky notes, design a personalised perfume that reflects your unique identity.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 1pm
📍 **WHERE:** EspressoLust Coffee, Koramangala
☎ **CALL:** 89043 97434



Get Hooked

Experience the mindful art of crocheting from scratch. This workshop covers everything from holding the hook to mastering step-by-step stitches. All material will be provided and you will leave with your very own handmade creation and the skills to continue at home.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 3pm
📍 **WHERE:** Thirdspace Art and Cafe Community, Koramangala
📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

ASK AN XPERT

progress quickly if untreated. Avoid using human eye drops and gently clean the eye with sterile saline, preventing your dog from rubbing it. Visit a veterinarian promptly as she may require antibiotic or anti-inflammatory eye drops, and the vet can rule out corneal ulcers or deeper injuries. Early intervention is crucial to protect her vision.



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

✉ @XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
✉ bengaluru@cityexpress@gmail.com
📱 @xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

WHY WOMEN NEED TO RETHINK LEG TRAINING FOR BETTER STRENGTH AND SHAPE

Many women spend hours on cardio machines or focus on small, isolated movements, expecting visible changes in their lower body. But real transformation comes from how you train, not just how long you train. Leg workouts, when done right, can improve strength, body composition and overall fitness far more effectively than repetitive low-intensity routines.

FOCUS ON COMPOUND MOVEMENTS

Exercises like squats, lunges and deadlifts work multiple muscle groups at once. Unlike isolation exercises that target smaller muscles, compound lifts engage the glutes, quadriceps, hamstrings and even the core and lower back in a single movement. This leads to better muscle activation and more efficient workouts.

TRAIN WITH ENOUGH RESISTANCE

A common mistake is using weights that feel comfortable but do not challenge the muscles. For muscle growth and strength, the body needs progressive overload. This means gradually increasing resistance so the muscles are forced to adapt and grow stronger.

BALANCE COMPOUND AND ISOLATION WORK

While compound exercises should form the base of your routine, isolation movements still have value. They help refine muscle tone and target specific areas. A balanced routine combines both for better results.

TRAIN LEGS REGULARLY

Leg muscles are among the largest in the body, and training them helps burn more calories and improves overall strength. Regular lower-body training also supports better metabolism and functional movement in daily life.

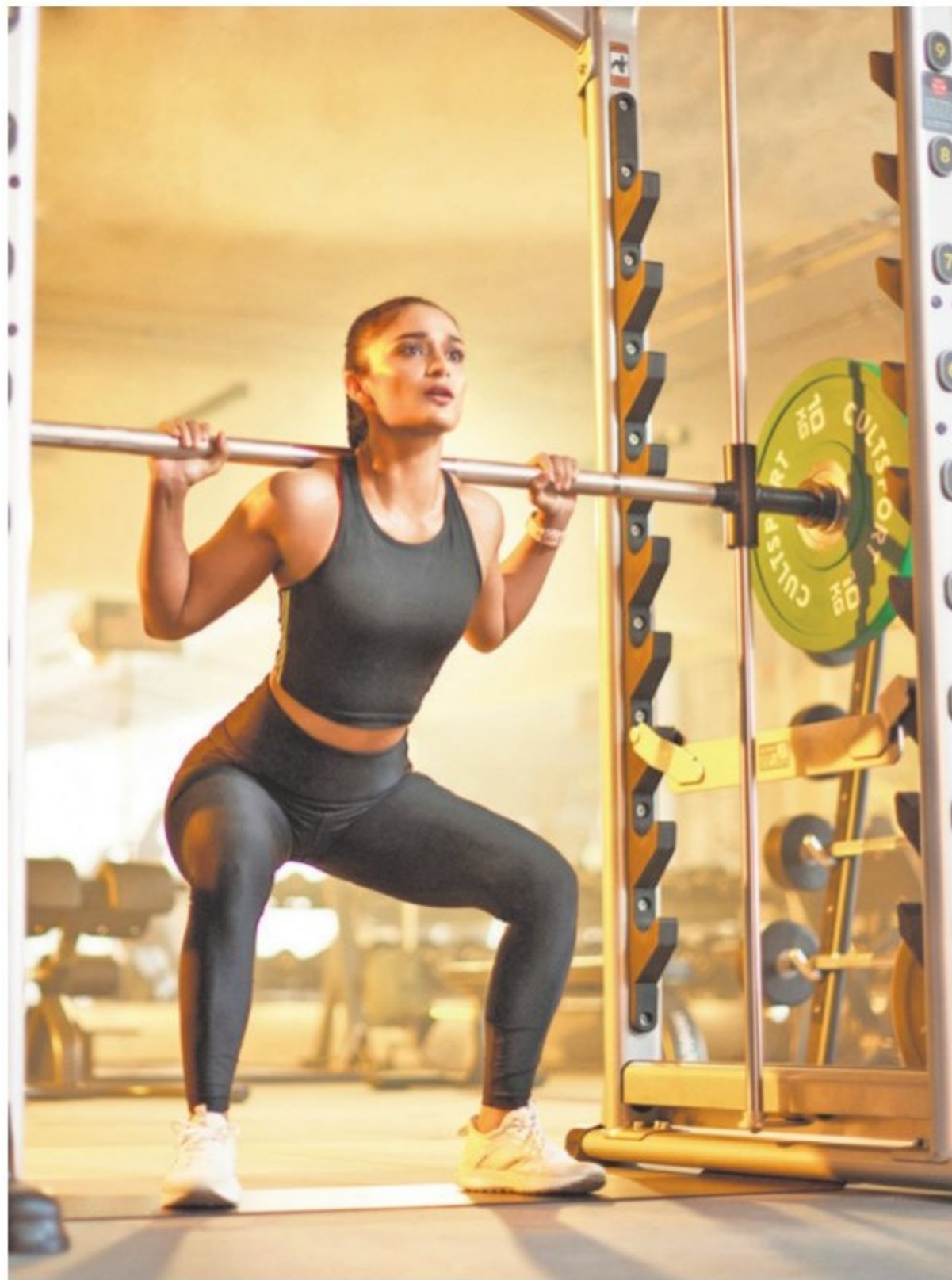
DON'T RELY SOLELY ON CARDIO

Cardio alone may not build muscle, or create the toned look many aim for. Strength training is essential for shaping the lower body and improving muscle definition over time.

PRIORITISE TECHNIQUE AND CONSISTENCY

Good form ensures the right muscles are working and reduces injury risk. Consistency, rather than intensity alone, is what drives long-term progress.

Leg training is not about doing more exercises, but doing the right ones with intent. When you focus on strength, proper technique and progression, results follow naturally. Over time, this approach not only improves how you look but also how you move, perform and feel every day.



By Spoorthi S, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform



Creativity in a Bottle

Explore the art of upcycling by turning a simple bottle into a beautiful piece of home decor. This easy-to-learn workshop teaches surface preparation, wrinkle-free paper application and waterproofing techniques for decoupage.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 5pm
📍 **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout
☎ **CALL:** 73539 41419

Break Free

Step into an escape room with strangers paired together, solve clues and figure out mysteries to plan an escape. This interactive activity creates an environment where strangers become teammates and feel the thrill of victory.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 1pm onwards
📍 **WHERE:** Dare 2 Escape, Kalyan Nagar
📄 **DETAILS:** district.in



Late Night Laughs

Experience a surprise curated standup comedy show featuring comics from all over India. The lineup remains a mystery, giving you a chance to witness seasoned performers and rising stars share the same stage in an intimate, indoor setting.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 9:30pm
📍 **WHERE:** The Coffee Theatre, Indiranagar
📄 **DETAILS:** district.in

Cube Masterclass

Learn to solve the mystery of the Rubik's Cube through a clear, structured system. This interactive workshop promises to teach kids through a step-by-step approach that strengthens concentration and mental agility.

📅 **WHEN:** May 4, 5:30pm
📍 **WHERE:** Brain Studio Global, Padmanabhanagar
☎ **CALL:** 63623 59655



Mesmerised in Music

Enjoy a night of catchy music as Strings Attached covers Bollywood classics and English hits. Vibe with Gen Z crowds soaking in the nostalgia at this classic pub night.

📅 **WHEN:** May 6, 8pm
📍 **WHERE:** Chin Lung Brewery, Indiranagar
📄 **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER



CATCH OF THE DAY

Using oil colour and resin on rusted iron, artist Abdulla PA paints a scene depicting fishermen gathering their nets

MAKEUP



THE Clean Girl era is over. She had a perfectly pleasant run. This season, we are doing our faces again with colour, and we are not apologising for it. *Euphoria's* Season 3 arrives precisely at the right moment. Maddy Perez has retired from the glitter, entered her Sophia Loren era with matte, moody, dark lips, a double wing so sharp like a knife's edge. For those who are avoiding watching this trauma porn, here is what to do with your face this summer. Skin first. Forget glass skin, that was a very pandemic thing. This year's finish is called mannequin skin, which simply means soft, blurred, and real. Eyes next. Graphic liner is having its most adventurous season — floating lines above the crease, double wings, negative space, extended corners. Frosted blue eyeshadow is back. The lip. The baddie makeup with rich plums, fiery reds, glossy berries — all lined by darker lip liner is flooding reels. But if you want to try something else, there is the Nina Park lip: a soft, blurred wash of colour applied from the centre of the mouth outward, fading gently at the edges.

COLOURS



APPARENTLY, something called toothpaste fashion is kicking up — people dressing up in mint green, sea foam, and the softest icy blue you've ever seen. Blue has been plotting a takeover for a while now, honestly. First, Lady Gaga hit the Super Bowl stage in that baby blue Loewe number. Then Zendaya floated by in that Schiaparelli black-blue gown. And now? Meryl Streep is out here reminding us all about Cerulean with that iconic sweater moment with *Devil Wears Prada 2*.

SHOES

ONITSUKA Tiger just dropped the Mexico 66 with a kitten heel. Yes, the shoe from *Kill Bill*. You cannot run from assassins in this version. But you can look incredibly cool while standing still. When you examine the whole shoe scenario, on one foot, you have the kitten heel slinking down the Dior runway. On the other foot, designers have completely lost their minds and started gluing the jewellery box onto the shoe. Dries Van Noten has trainers covered in crystals. Stella McCartney put pearls where pearls normally don't belong. Ankles seem to be the new earlobes.

OUTFITS

IF you step outside, you already know the answer to summer dressing: cotton. Simple white dresses, long flowy maxis and solid colours with tiny prints adorn the street. Paris and Milan are saying the same thing on their runways, just in a more expensive language. Colour-blocking, wearing two or three bold solid colours together with no mixing or patterns, showed up at Celine, Jil Sander, and Loewe. Polka dots are having a full moment. Pair that with lace maxi skirts or lace-trimmed monochrome skirts. For fans of Victorian fashion, Jonathan Anderson's debut at Dior brought back the Victorian bustle, a 19th-century padded structure worn under skirts to dramatically puff out the back. Also, you can roll up your jeans till the ankle, giving a neat width, as Harry Styles and Chase Infiniti have approved the look.

HAIR

RUNWAYS at Valentino, Dior, Stella McCartney — all of them sent models out with windswept, slightly ruffled, I wasn't trying' hair. The kind that takes 45 minutes to look effortless. What's our take? Put the straightener down. The frizz is in now. The humidity is doing us a favour. But for those who can't stand the heat, the chic bob is in trend. It is everywhere. Emma Stone has one. Zendaya has one. Gracie Abrams has had one so consistently that it feels more like her personality. For a softer summer look, take notes from Olivia Dean with big, blowout waves that look like you spent the afternoon near the sea. Now for the styling, a thin satin ribbon (you can also go for an oversized scrunchie) tied around a low bun or woven into a braid reads romantic without trying too hard. Speaking of braids, tuck one small flower into them. A rose, the way Simran wore it. It is making a comeback with Kayadu Lohar's look in *Pallichattambi*. If ribbons aren't your thing, go Italian. Tie a silk scarf low around your head, knotted loosely at the nape, sunglasses on. Imagine you are in *The Godfather* or in Elena Ferrante's Naples. Either works. Crocheted and bedazzled skull caps can also be a great accessory to shine this summer.

STYLING
THE WARMEST SEASON

From the runways of Paris to the shops of Commercial Street, here are some summer trends | **Diya Maria George**



maximalist moment too, with geometric frames and bold acetate shapes very much in the conversation. Book charms, as seen on Elle Fanning, turn summer accessories into small stories you can carry, an ode to last year's Labubu craze.

ACCESSORIES

OVERSIZED cuffs, bold rings, textured metal bracelets and chunky chain necklaces are among the season's most striking styles. Beaded chokers have toughened up. At Balenciaga and Chanel, thick gold links and sculpted metal bands wrapped the neck like modern armour. Separately, oversized pendants and metallic florals were layered over knits, polos, and sequinned jackets at Valentino, Rabanne and Sacai. Belts are no longer holding up pants. The spring/summer 2026 runways put forth an argument for belts to have a higher purpose, to be stacked, like how you would with your necklaces and bangles. For bags, satin pouches from houses like Prada are the new IT bag energy. And sunglasses are having their

Story is political, with plot leading to an election day!

Here's a secret. I have fooled friends these past few years. They've spent hours playing Dungeons and Dragons, while being unaware that I've struggled to get past page two of the players' handbook. Who's actually reading all of that? What they don't know can't hurt them. I've played the 2026 game, *Esoteric Ebb*, which has taught me everything about D&D.

Esoteric Ebb (EE) is a single-player role-playing-game that calls itself a 'disco-like'. You must play *Disco Elysium* (DE) first, which is what EE is inspired from. In EE, when the main character Ragn 'woke up', realised he might have lost his memory, and learnt that he was in charge of solving a crime, I was already bored. I finished playing DE and didn't want to sit through a high-fantasy fanfiction edition of it. But my jaw dropped when I realised the possibilities extended by a significant game-play component. Unlike in *Disco*, EE brings in the concept of Spellcasting! Before I get to spells, a little about the story itself. A game like this relies on you enjoying reading. It's funny, and Terry Pratchett-coded — if you're someone who loves fantasy stories. The story is inherently political, with the plotline leading to an election day. It's the first Norvikian democratic election! A lot of elements made me yearn an unfussy idea of democracy. As the cleric, I took sides and had political conversations about Azgalism and

Freestriderism. You can choose not to play this way too, and go around spreading chaos by campaigning for multiple political entities. Now, let's discuss spells. In EE, spellcasting abilities could change the game, depending on your playstyle. I wanted to play as what I call, a rizz cleric (a detective-soldier with high charisma). I used the 'charm person' spell liberally. I also learnt a few druidic abilities, and spoke to lobsters, birds, and trees to learn more about the world around me. This is an important thing to understand if you're a D&D faker: Spells that you discover and choose to learn can unlock chunks of the plotline. The game can reach completion if you skip some of these, but you might be left with a feeling that several things are still unexplained. This is the one place where EE improves on *Disco Elysium*. DE expects you to explore every interaction before you solve the mystery. But a 'good ending' in EE isn't conditional purely on multiple strings of the story and plotlines being completed. You can just speed run to the end if you want to.

Like most RPG side-missions, all of them are mostly useless in the big picture. But nobody plays D&D to defeat the 'dragons'. We're here to do fun, silly things. Early in the game I discovered a Mimic called Meek, which did nothing in terms of story progression, but was entertaining. I wasted spell slots speaking to random skulls, to learn nothing of value. If you're rushing to buy the game, then my spell worked! I placed an "Encode Thoughts" enchantment on this article to convince you to get the game. The game is currently available only on PC.



(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)



PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANISH REDDY, Date of birth: 02/08/2000, son of Sri. Jeswanth Reddy Venkat, resident of No. 788, 9th Main, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560043, Karnataka State, have changed my name to **MANISH REDDY JESWANATH**, vide affidavit dated 2nd of May 2026, before Notary Sivakumara M.N., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VANGALA SINDHUJA (Old Name) NO.3, SRI MANJUNATHA KRUPA, 1ST FLOOR, L D BLOCK, GANGA NAGAR, BENGALURU, 560032 have changed my name to **CHIRRA SINDHUJA** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 24/4/2026 Before Notary Sivakumara. M.N Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJESHWARI spouse of Gp. Capt. VASUDEVAN CHANDRASEKHARAN (Retd.) (Service Number 6850-A), residing at No. 185, Jala Vayu Vilhar, Kamanahalli Main Road, Opp. Canara Bank, Kamanahalli, Bengaluru - 560043, Karnataka, have changed my name from **RAJESHWARI** to **CHANDRASEKHARAN RAJESHWARI** and my date of birth is 03-06-1948 (Third June Nineteen Forty Eight) vide affidavit dated 30-04-2026 before Notary **R. BASAVARAJA** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VAANI VENKATESH, resident of No.933, 20th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to **VAANI VENKATESH YADALAM** vide affidavit dated: 2/5/2026 Before Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN. K.**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) SABAERA BEGUM MOHAMED KHAILUR REHMAN, residing at No. 184, 1406/9, 2nd Main 5th Cross, Rashad Nagar, Madini Hyder Street, A C Post, Bangalore - 560045, have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) SABAERA BEGUM MOHAMED KHAILUR REHMAN** to **(NEW NAME) SHABEERA BEGUM MOHAMED**, vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026, sworn before Notary A.Manjula., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPA MUNAVALLI, D/o. Rajashekar Shankarappa Munavalli, residing at Siddalinga Krupa, Deshpande Nagar, Hubli Traffic Island, Hubballi-Dharwad City, Bengaluru 580029, have changed my name to **DEEPA RAJASHEKAR MUNAVALLI** vide Affidavit Dated: 02/05/2026, sworn before Notary S.L.BALAGURU, Bengaluru.

NAME DECLARATION

I, NISHANT GERALD, S/o Gerald A. Francis, aged about 31 years, No-D-4, Jupiter Block, Regency Magnum Apartments, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru-560043. I state that in some documents my name is mentioned as "FRANCIS JOSEPH NISHANT" and in other documents my name is mentioned as "NISHANT GERALD". Above both names belong to me only vide affidavit dated 28/04/2026 sworn to before Notary Public Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHU G.R. Residing at No. 102, 8th Main, 4th Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03. I, declare that my son actual and correct name is **SUYATEENDRA R. THORATH**, his Aadhaar card Number is 6948 4458 4537, due to oversight in his birth certificate his name entered as **SUYATEENDRA R.THORATH**, instead of **SUYATEENDRA R.THORATH**, in future all the records, to call, enter my son's name as **SUYATEENDRA R.** vide Affidavit dated 02.05.2026 sworn to before Notary Lakshmaiah, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUSHMA K GURNANI, W/o Kanyalal W Gurnani, R/at #B-504, Mittal Pride, 3rd Stage, Khille Moholla, Industrial Suburb, Mysuru South, Mysuru, Karnataka-570008, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUSHILA L RAMCHANDANI** to **SUSHMA K GURNANI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUSHMA K GURNANI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ANANTHA KUMAR S.K**, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVI KUMAR NANDU SAO, S/o. Late. Nandu Sao, aged 39 years, residing at No.A-608, Keerthi Surya Shakti Tower Hoodi Circle, Whitefield, Bengaluru 549048, have changed my name to **RAVI KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 02.05.2026 before notary S. **SAMUEL SOLOMON**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SURJEET SINGH MEENA resident of SMQ, 595/4, 7th Camp, Air Force Station, Jalahalli East, Bengaluru - 560013, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **DHRUV** to **DHRUV SINGH BHANWARIA**, vide Affidavit Dated 30-04-2026 Before Advocate and Notary **S PRAKASH**, Reg No. 7865/09 Bangalore Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIDYA SURESH (Old Name), aged about 51 years, W/o. SURESH.K., RESIDING AT NO.4, 1ST FLOOR, 13TH-B MAIN, 18TH CROSS, MALLESHWARAM WEST, M A L L E S H W A R A M, BENGALURU-560055, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **VIDYA SURESH** (Old Name) to **VIDYA.J.** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **VIDYA.J.** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: **GANGARAJU B.N.** before Notary 02/05/2026 at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJESHWARI VIJAYKUMAR BENAHAL, W/o. VIJAYKUMAR BENAHAL, residing at No. 125 Main Road, Near Mulsurage Gada-582211, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAJESHWARI B HIREMATH** to **RAJESHWARI VIJAYKUMAR BENAHAL**, vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026, sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SIDDHARTH SREECHAND JAIN, S/o. SREECHAND SHANTILAL JAIN and residing at Old No. 62, New No. 837, M G Road, Ramana Grama Ramnagar-562159, Bangalore-560097, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SIDDHARTH SREECHAND** to **SIDDHARTH SREECHAND JAIN**, vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026, sworn to before M. Radhamma, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 13890370A, Rank : Ex HAV, Name: Nitya Nanda Das, S/o. Biswa Nath Das, R/at. No. 95/62/B, Aluru Road, Near Himalaya Durg, Aluru Palya, Alur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-562123, do hereby declare that I have changed my Spouse name from **Bharti Das**, to **Bharati Das**, vide affidavit dated 30.04.2026, sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tejaswini. L., aged about 32 years, D/o Lakshmana. T, resident at No. 96, 2nd cross, 6th main, Avalahalli, BDA layout BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore - 560085, I declare that I have changed my name from **Shanvi Gowda** to **Tejaswini. L.** vide affidavit dated 27.04.2026, Sworn before advocate and notary S.N Madhu, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAGADEESWARAN D. Residing at HOUSE NO.26, 1st MAIN, BEGUR ROAD, SHANTHANAGAR, HONGASANDRA, BANGALORE - 560068, I have changed my name to **JAGADISHWARAN D** for all purposes affidavit dated 02/05/2026 sworn before advocate and notary K.C. Shashikala Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AYESHA BEGUM (New Name), W/o. Ajmal Ahmed, residing at No.31/32, 1st A Main, Shanthinikethan Layout, Arekere, Bangalore south, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560076, India, declare that I have changed the name from **IYESHA BEGUM** (Old Name) to **AYESHA BEGUM** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **AYESHA BEGUM** (New Name) for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 02/05/2026, before Notary DHARMA PRASAD H.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MEERA S RAO, aged about 64 years, W/o. Sri. Chayapathy Bidaruppa Krishnappa, D/o. Late. S.Sunyanarayana Rao, residing at No.553, 15th Cross, 10th Main, ISRO Layout, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078, India, have changed my name to **MEERA CHAYAPATHY**, for all purpose vide Affidavit dated: 02-05-2026, sworn before Notary Public Sri. H.C. Thammanna Gowda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, UMA MAHESHWARI. V., W/o. Sri. Venkatesh Gurunath, aged about 49 years, residing at No.588, 7th Cross, 11th Main Road, Near Indiranagar Club, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 008, have changed my minor son's name from **MONISH KARTHIK. V** to **V.Tarun**, vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026 sworn to before Fahim Unnisa Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, C.J CHETAN, S/o C.S. Jagadeesh Babu, aged about 43 years, residing at No.34, AGS Layout, Near Maruthi Garment Factory, Arehalli, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru - 560061, have changed my name from **C.J. CHETHAN** to **C.J CHETAN**, vide affidavit dated 2/5/2026 sworn to before Ravi Kumar V Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PARITOSH PANKAJ TIWARI Aged about 33 years, W/o Pankaj Tiwari, Residing at #T-41, B Block, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - 560012, have changed my name from **PARITOSH TIWARI** to **PARITOSH PANKAJ TIWARI**, vide affidavit dated 30/4/2026 sworn to before M Narendran Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shubhashree.R/ Shuba Shri, W/o Praveen Nagappa Paggi, aged about 38 years, residing at No.285, Janani, 4th Cross Road, Canara Bank Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 099, have changed my name from **SHUBHASHREE.R** and **SHUBASHRI** to **SHUBHASHREE RAJANNA**, vide affidavit dated 30/4/2026 sworn to before P N Nagesha Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thulasi S V, D/o. Sudha Venugopal, R/at #4, Rudramma Layout, Chikkabanavara, Chikkabanavara Post Office, Bangalore 560090. In SSLC Marks Card my fathers name was wrongly entered as **VENUGOPAL**, my fathers correct name is **SUDHA VENUGOPAL**. vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026 sworn before Leela Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KODAGANUR GOWDRA MALLIKARJUNA, S/o. K.G Chandrashekarappa, residing at No. 33, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-560019, have changed my name to **KODAGANUR GOWDRU MALLIKARJUNA**, vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026, sworn before notary K S Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CAMILA JEAN MILTON ANTONY, D/o.MILTON ANTONY, residing at Door; No.A-602, The Residences at BTG, Gate No.4, Brigade Tech Gardens. ITPM Main Road, Near SRIT, Brookefield, Kordalahalli - 560037, Bangalore, Karnataka have changed my name to **CAMILA JEAN** and shall hereafter, be known as **CAMILA JEAN** for all purposes. 02.05.2026

LOST

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I, Tushar Kant Dash, Son of Shri Pramod Kumar Dash, aged about 34 years, residing at No. 65, Flat No. 203, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross road, Near Bus Stop, Dollars layout, NS Palya, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560076 have lost original 10th and 12th mark sheets bearing Register No. TW 60054578, Index No.T/4641/095 (10th) and BK 4006367, Index No. B/8325/132 (12th), issued in Odisha, that I have FIR copy of Lost Article Report No.2183509/2026 dated: 02/05/2026. If found, please contact 7978348205

For
SMART ADS
&
CLASSIFIEDS
Contact
Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
Mr Ravi Kumar
080-22866893
9886550650
080-22866893

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2. High-end Luxury Bungalows, Villas & Apartments.
3. Lands (1 to 100+ Acres) & Sites (4000 Sqft to 30,000+ Sqft) : Residential / Commercial / Agricultural / Industrial.
For Outright, JV / JD, Revenue Sharing.
URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR RENT
Car Showrooms & Workshops, Gold & Diamond Showrooms, Plug & Play Office Spaces, Industrial Warehouses (Any Size / Dimensions).
Location : Anywhere in Bangalore | Clear Title Only | Immediate Settlement.
M/s. SEVENRAJ'S ESTATE AGENCY
Contact : Mr. SEVENRAJ 98450 20007 / 98457 17777 sevenraj@gmail.com

Chikkavaru Konaralla is set to rewrite how we see children



CE FEATURES

ACCORDING to the makers, *Chikkavaru Konaralla* questions how children are perceived in everyday life. It challenges the habit of underestimating them and opens a space where their intelligence, curiosity, and emotional depth take centre stage. Produced under the HUE Arts Studios banner, *Chikkavaru Konaralla* is helmed by Prakash Chinnappa, who serves as writer, director, and producer, alongside co-producers Netrababu, Shwetha, Jameel, Naziya Khazi, and Satish. A trailer launch for the film recently offered a first glimpse into its narrative world. The ensemble cast of *Chikkavaru Konaralla* includes Sehari, Tishya, Hansika, Srivas, Viyaan, and Srigowri in prominent roles. Supporting them are seasoned performers Ramesh Bhat, Sundarraj, and Anitha Bhat, whose roles add emotional weight and maturity.

The director says, "The story focuses on children between the ages of five and eleven, a phase where observation turns sharp and thought begins to take independent shape. We have presented them as perceptive individuals who question, respond, and understand far more than they are often given credit for. Set against a larger backdrop that includes environmental concerns like global warming, the narrative places these children in situations where adaptation and awareness become essential. Their responses to changing circumstances form a key part of the story." He further adds that the film "also explores relationships among adults, where long-standing differences gradually shift. In several moments, the honesty and clarity of children help soften tensions and bring understanding between people. Their presence becomes a quiet bridge between divided viewpoints." The film has songs composed by Uttam Kumar, with lyrics by Prasanna and Chandrashekar Bhat. Cinematography and editing are handled by Rishikesh, while Vivaan Surya provides the background score, and Raksha takes care of choreography. *Chikkavaru Konaralla* Shot in and around Sagara and Hosabale. While the filmmakers are aiming for a June release, a date is yet to be confirmed.

Greta Gerwig's Narnia postponed

CE FEATURES

BARBIE director Greta Gerwig's much-anticipated adaptation of *Narnia* has been pushed to 2027, with Netflix confirming a global theatrical rollout ahead of its streaming debut. The fantasy film, based on CS Lewis' *The Magician's Nephew*, will now be released in cinemas on February 12, 2027, followed by its Netflix premiere on April 2, 2027. The streaming giant confirmed on its social media handles.

Originally slated for a Thanksgiving 2026 release, the shift allows for an expanded theatrical window. The film boasts an ensemble cast including Carey Mulligan, Daniel Craig, Meryl Streep, and Emma Mackey. Mackey will portray Jadis, the White Witch, while David McKenna will play Diggory.



KVN PRODUCTIONS' BALAN: THE BOY HEADED TO CANNES FILM MARKET



CE FEATURES

BALAN: *The Boy*, the next film from Chidambaram after the success of *Manjummel Boys*, is headed to Marche du Film, which runs alongside the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival from May 12 to 23.

The makers announced that the film will have a special market screening there on May 14. Produced by KVN



Shivarajkumar

GOWTHAM SIVARAMAN TO DIRECT SHIVARAJKUMAR-ABISHAN JEEVINTH FILM

A SHARADHAA

W E had earlier reported that *Tourist Family* director Abishan Jeevinth, who recently made his debut as a lead with *With Love*, is teaming up with Shivarajkumar for a new project, where the duo will be seen as father and son. The film has already been launched with a simple mahurat recently, marking the official start of the project.

Gowtham Sivaraman, who earlier worked as co-director with Abishan Jeevinth on *Tourist Family*, will make his directorial debut with the upcoming film. The yet-to-be-titled project will mark his first independent outing as a filmmaker



Abishan Jeevinth

Billed as a father-son themed project, the film was recently launched with a mahurat ceremony

in a larger, more ambitious set-up. An official announcement of Gowtham coming on board, along with the project's formal launch, is expected soon with more details to be revealed. For Shivarajkumar, his journey in Tamil cinema continues to expand steadily with varied roles. After making a notable appearance alongside Rajinikanth in *Jailer*, he went on to play an important role in Dhanush's *Captain Miller*, where he was seen as the actor's elder brother.

He is next set to reprise his character Narasimha in *Jailer 2*, which is set to release this year. The upcoming film with Abishan Jeevinth marks his fourth Tamil project, and interestingly, it is also being planned in Kannada and multiple languages, aiming for a wider reach.

Meanwhile, Shivanna has a packed slate ahead across industries. One of his most awaited films is *Peddi*, where he shares screen space with Ram Charan, the film is scheduled for a June 4 release. He is also part of another project directed by Sarvanan and produced by Sathya Jyothi Films, which is expected to go on floors soon. He will also resume the final schedule of *Bail*, directed by Pavan Wadeyar, from Monday. His upcoming lineup further includes *Dad*, *Gumma-di Narsaiah*, *Survivor - A Superstar Documentary*, and *A For Anand*. In addition, he will be seen in a pivotal role in Hemant M Rao's *666 Operation Dream Theatre*.

Sreemati Sindoor is a complete family entertainer: Vijay Raghavendra

CE FEATURES

VIJAY Raghavendra has been balancing multiple projects in recent times. Following the *Second Case of Seetharam* and his OTT debut, *Rakshasa*, the actor is now gearing up for his next release, *Shreemati Sindoor*, which has completed shooting and is likely to hit theatres by the end of May. Ahead of the release, the makers unveiled the teaser and launched the film's songs in a grand event. *Shreemati Sindoor* is produced under R and R Enterprises, backed by DN Nagireddy, who also wrote the story and took charge of production. Directed by R Anantharaju, the film features Priya Hegde as the female lead and has four songs as part of its soundtrack.

Speaking about the project, producer DN Nagireddy describes *Shreemati Sindoor* as a 20-year dream. He says that the intention behind the film was not just storytelling, but also creating employment opportunities for film workers while delivering a meaningful family entertainer. He highlighted the song "Hoo Male" as a major attraction, noting how even the weather seemed to reflect its mood during the launch. He also spoke about the Hanuman song sung by Kailash Kher, which he believes has become a standout number with appeal extending beyond Kar-



The film, directed by R Anantharaju and produced by DN Nagireddy, is set for an end-of-May release

nataka to audiences across India.

Explaining the storyline, Nagireddy reveals that the film revolves around a girl who becomes a 'Shreemati' after marriage, where Sindoor symbolises honour and responsibility. Billed as a family entertainer, the narrative follows a responsible young man who marries the woman he loves, only to face unexpected twists in life. The story explores how he navi-

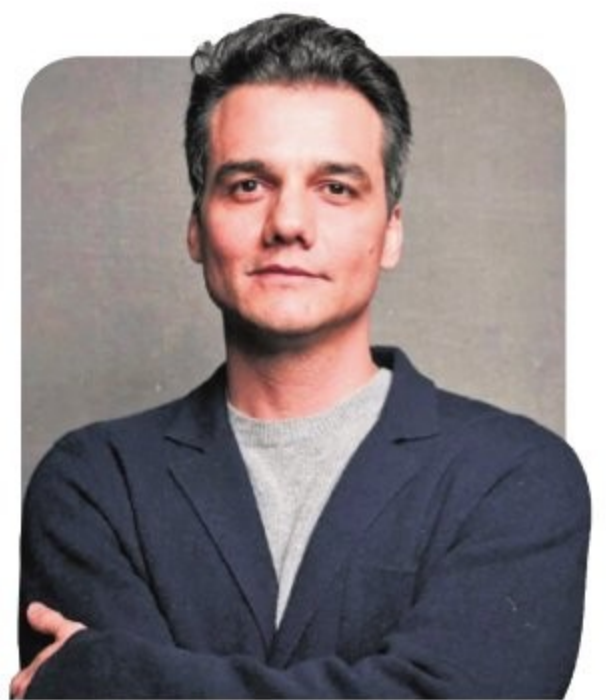
gates these challenges and the changes that follow. Nagireddy also recalls his long association with actor Puneeth Rajkumar, noting that while a collaboration could not happen earlier, working with Vijay Raghavendra now feels significant. Lead actor Vijay Raghavendra shares that the producer's passion reflects in every frame of the film. He describes *Shreemati Sindoor* as a wholesome family drama that goes beyond current trends of action, horror, or thrillers, making it suitable for all audiences across generations. He also appreciates the visual effects, saying they bring freshness to the film.

Director R Anantharaju says that the collective effort of the cast and crew has shaped the film effectively. He adds that the story revolves around the character Sindoor and expresses confidence that audiences will connect with it. He also revealed that a 6.4-foot-tall bodybuilder from Hosapete plays Lord Hanuman, and that the film has been shot in scenic locations such as Mudigere, Sakleshpur, and Chikkamagaluru.

The music is composed by Rajesh Ramnath, with lyrics by Kaviraj, K Kalyan, and the director himself. P K H Das handled the cinematography.



A still from the film



Ralph Fiennes, Colin Farrell, Wagner Moura to team up

CE FEATURES

RALPH Fiennes, Colin Farrell, and Wagner Moura have been announced to star in an upcoming comedy, titled *Art*. The upcoming film is a reunion for Fiennes and Farrell after Martin McDonagh's *In Bruges* (2007).

Art is directed by Fernando Meirelles, who has previously made *City of God* (2004) and *The Two Popes* (2019). Christopher Hampton, who was nominated for an Oscar for his work on *The Father* (2020), is adapting Yasmina Reza's play of the same name. The story of the play follows Serge, Marc, Yvan and their quabbles. When Serge buys an expensive painting, which is mostly white, it shocks Marc who is surprised that Serge would waste his money like this. Yvan, who leads a troubled life, is caught between the two, and his attempts to broker a peace leads to things becoming worse.

Up next Farrell will be seen in *Ordained*. Meanwhile, Fiennes will be seen as Coriolanus Snow in *The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping*. Moura will be seen alongside Greta Lee in Netflix's *The Last House*.



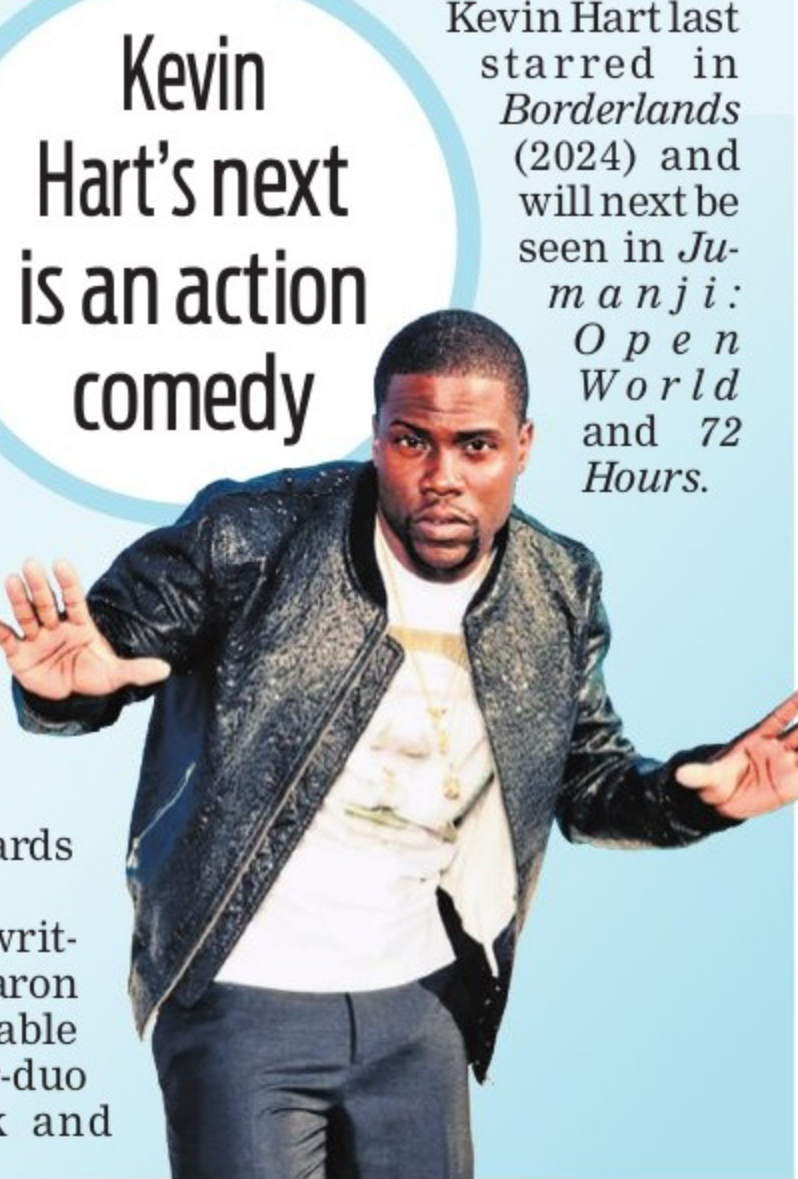
CE FEATURES

FILMMAKER McG, known for films like *Charlie's Angels* (2000) and *Terminator: Salvation* (2009), is uniting with Kevin Hart for an upcoming high-concept action-comedy from Netflix. Based on a short story by Sean Lewis, the film follows two rival spies who meet in a Lamaze class, where their wives instantly become friends. Soon, their double lives collide in hilarious ways and are forced to forge a reluctant relationship as they journey towards fatherhood.

The film is being written by Adam and Aaron Nee. One of the notable works of the writer-duo is Sandra Bullock and

Channing Tatum's *The Lost City*, and they have also worked on the upcoming *Masters of the Universe* film. McG's upcoming film *Way of the Warrior Kid* stars Chris Pratt, Jude Hill, and Linda Cardellini.

Kevin Hart last starred in *Borderlands* (2024) and will next be seen in *Jumanji: Open World* and *72 Hours*.



Kevin Hart's next is an action comedy